

Amrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION—PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL XXXI

CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1898.

NO. 16.

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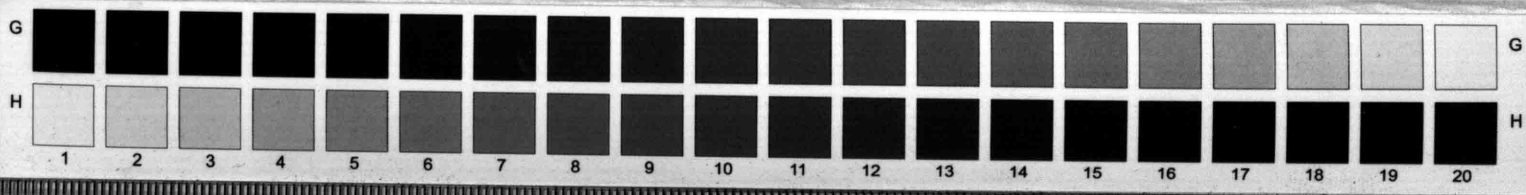
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Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 17, 1898.

THE PUBLIC MEETING AND THE ANGLO-INDIANS.

It has been decided to hold a public meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta and its suburbs through the Sheriff, to enter a protest against the Sedition Bill. The members of the Anglo-Indian community have good reasons to entertain the notion that their position is different from that of the natives of the soil. They have the reputation of being more loyal than the Indians and more powerful than the Government itself. As regards their own position, they frankly confessed, in the beginning of this discussion on the sedition measure, that it had nothing to do with them, and they had no reason to move in the matter.

This being the notion of the Anglo-Indians, it is not difficult to understand why they hesitated at first in offering a protest against a measure which is, at least, not in keeping with the instincts which move the enlightened nation that holds sway over one-third of the habitable globe.

Their position was so delicate that they feared that if they offered any opposition, the Government would be thrown into a state of embarrassment. They felt that they were stronger than the natives of the soil, nay, they were stronger than the Government itself. At least, there is no manner of doubt that they are stronger than the Government, when supported by the natives of the soil.

The Government is autocratic and irresistible; yet, they, the Anglo-Indians, have brought it down on its knees more than once. When they combined against Lord Ripon, the Government had to yield. When Sir Charles Elliott almost abolished trial by jury by a fiat, the natives of the soil came to feel that resistance would be futile. But, luckily, Mr. S. E. J. Clarke, Mr. L. P. Pugh, Mr. Jackson, and a few other large-hearted Anglo-Indians came forward to defend right against wrong, and immediately the scale turned in favour of the weak. The autocrat of autocrats, Sir Charles Elliott, had to submit.

The Anglo-Indians possess the powers of a giant, and as a rule, do not always exercise the powers; they are conscious of possessing. And thus the Anglo-Indians had to hesitate in the beginning.

At last Heaven moved them to side with the opposition. And they did it in their characteristic fashion. Says the *Englishman*:

It has been probably, however, a source of even greater surprise to the Government than it has to ourselves, to realise the extent and unanimity of the opposition which the Bill has evoked.

The above, shows that the *Englishman*, as an organ of the Anglo-Indians, posed as one of the authorities. The *Englishman* was quite sure that when the Anglo-Indians say "nay" and he focussed that interdiction in his paper, the Government would halt immediately, and stop in its wild career.

But there is no disposition, on the part of the Government to stop, even at the bidding of the Anglo-Indians. In days gone by, the natives of the soil had some prestige; but that has been trampled under foot. The Anglo-Indians had, however, their prestige "full vigour," and the Government is now going to trample that also under foot.

None need wonder at this attitude of the Government. The Government loves powers; it seeks to be irresistible; it will not allow even Parliament to interfere with it. Why should it allow the Anglo-Indians to lord it over it?

There ought to be a public meeting in Calcutta to give a "finish" to the agitation. But, who is to convene it? The Indians had determined to call one; but they hesitated when the Anglo-Indians came to oppose the sedition measure. They thought, the Indians and Anglo-Indians, being of one mind, should hold the public meeting together, and that it ought to be convened by the latter. With this view, the public meeting was postponed, and the leaders of the Anglo-Indian community were sounded. They took some time to consider the matter, and at last they came to the conclusion that the Indians should convene it. The Sheriff has thus been requisitioned to do it, and the meeting is to be held at 5 P. M. on Thursday. We hope, the Anglo-Indian community will finish the agitation as they

began it; that is to say, they will muster strong and make every effort in their power to have the measure withdrawn or modified in the right direction. We have hopes that if a combined protest from Europeans and Indians can be presented to Mr. Chalmers, his obdurate heart may yet be moved.

We are grateful to the Anglo-Indians for what they have already done. The support that they have given to the popular cause, is not a half-hearted one. We hope, they will see the absolute necessity of abiding by the popular cause to the last. If, after every effort on the part of the people, European and Indian, the Government yet sticks to its *zid*, then the former shall have this consolation, that they did what they possibly could, to avert the doom.

Those district towns which have not yet elected their delegates to the Calcutta public meeting, should lose no time in electing them, and publishing their names in the papers.

HOW THE MEASURE WILL DESTROY CORDIAL FEELING.

The reason why the people of India have offered so strong a protest against the contemplated repressive measures, has not as yet been distinctly told. It is time, that we should do it, for Mr. Chalmers threatens to have his Bill passed in three days more. The measures are disliked, not because they will prevent newspapers from abusing the Government. Neither will they serve the purpose of stopping abuse. If the Government will never move to prosecute a newspaper, unless its temper, which is not easily moved, had been previously soured by a gross outrage like the one committed at Poona. The measures are disliked, because they are calculated to create in the natives of the soil, who are so devotedly attached to British rule, a feeling of estrangement between the ruled and the rulers. It is not our opinion, but that of the Calcutta Bar, that the effect of the proposed measures would be to make the "telling of the truth" penal in this country. The measures are thus not mere amendments, but mean a revolution, that is to say, a radical change in the existing policy of the Government.

Compare the Proclamation of the Queen with the Chalmers Bill, and you see the difference of the spirit that the two measures respectively breathe. The first seeks to draw the natives of India into a closer embrace with the people of England; while the present measure means kicking down the stairs. Let the Proclamation alone. Compare the genius of the Delhi Proclamation and that of the present measure. Lord Beaconsfield meant exceedingly well, when he proclaimed the Empire. That was a Proclamation, which meant that the Indians were as much the subjects of the Crown as the Englishers were. Those Indians who understood the significance of that Proclamation, welcomed it. The Delhi Proclamation was the natural outcome of the Proclamation of 1858.

But not so the Bill of Mr. Chalmers means to the people of this country. It suggests that they are not subjects of the Crown, but of the officials sent out here to govern the country. It suggests that the people of India are aliens, a conquered people. It suggests that any feeling of oneness between the ruled and the rulers is impossible.

The people of India, however, expected a quite different treatment from their rulers. They expected that, as time rolled on, the Englishmen and Indians came to know one another, they would step by step, rise in the confidence of their rulers, and at last, enjoy some "at least" of the blessings of British citizenship.

When the *Pall Mall* says that Englishmen will never give British citizenship to the Indians, the latter do not believe it as an oracular declaration at all. They see before their eyes the evidences of British generosity which go to disprove the *Pall Mall*.

The Irish are worse offenders than the Indians, assuming that the Indians ever committed any offence at all, which, however,

they never did. On the other hand, such a gentle, law-abiding, domestic and pious nation as the Indians, never before existed in the world. Well, the Irish committed offences—dreadful offences, yet, we see, they have the privilege of returning one hundred members to Parliament. They enjoy a free press and the privilege of trial by jury. And they are now going to celebrate the doings of 1798!

The British Government is strong enough to be able to stop all this. But yet the Irish have never lost one item of their various privileges. Nay, if Mr. Gladstone had not become too old for work, they might have got an independent Parliament.

Thus the Indians expected to grow as a people under British rule. We have already said that they possess virtues not possessed by others. We claim for them also other qualifications, namely, that they are an intelligent and civilized race. It will not do to treat them as Somalis or Kaffirs.

Perhaps the Indians have offended in one respect, that is to say, they agitated for political privileges. But if they agitated for them, it was because they deserved to have some political privileges; and, secondly, the British Government have encouraged them to fight for such a cause. Have they not ever since they took possession of the country, crying themselves hoarse to impress us with the belief that they are an enlightened nation, that they are a generous race, more generous than the French or the Germans—that proud as they are of this Empire, prouder they would be if they could make the people happy and contented? They proclaimed their own worth, and the people of India believed them. They had good reasons to have faith in the claims put forth by the rulers. It is no mistake that the English own the largest Empire in the world. It would have been impossible for them to rule it if they had not some inherent moral worth, not possessed by others.

But what do we see now? The people of India flung away as vipers! And this after a rule of 175 years!

So you see, the proposed measures by which the present Government wants to signalize its name, is a measure which has the likely effect of creating blank despair in the country. The Bill is one which will not stop sedition but prevent the growth of that cordial feeling so essential for the progress of both India and England. It bodes good to none.

"TIME HAS NOT COME TO BENALIZE TRUTH."

In a previous article, we dealt with the absurdities connected with the amendment introduced into section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code, generally known as the Sedition Clause, and its offshoot, the new section 153 A. To-day we intend showing that the proposed changes in section 505 are no less dangerous and absurd. The section, as it stands now, runs as follows:—

Whoever circulates or publishes any statement, rumour or report which he knows to be false, with intent to cause any officer, soldier or sailor in the Army or Navy of the Queen to mutiny, or with intent to cause fear or alarm to the public, and thereby to induce any person to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquillity, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

The section, as amended by the Select Committee, provides:—

Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report, (a) with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, any officer, soldier or sailor in the Army or Navy of Her Majesty or in the Royal Indian Marine or in the Imperial Service Troops to mutiny or otherwise disregard or fail in his duty as such; or (b) with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public whereby any person may be induced to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquillity; or (c) with intent to incite or which is likely to incite any class of community of persons to commit any offence against any other class or community; shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine, or with both.

Exception.—It does not amount to an offence within the meaning of this section when the person making, publishing or circulating any such statement, rumour or report, has reasonable grounds for believing that such statement, rumour or report is true, and makes, publishes or circulates it without any such intent as aforesaid.

It will strike even an indifferent reader that the changes sought to be introduced are of a radical character, and all in the direction of repression. Just see. In the present section, whoever publishes any report which he knows to be false, with intent to

cause fear or alarm to the public, and thereby to induce any person to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquillity, shall be punished. In the amended section, the words "known to be false" are omitted altogether, and the onus of proving that he published a false report in good faith is thrown upon the publisher of it. That is to say, under the existing law, the publisher of a false report makes himself liable to be prosecuted, not by mere publishing a false report, but when the prosecution can prove that he knew it to be false and that he intended to cause mischief. But the proposed amendment will enable the executive to haul up a journalist, if he simply publishes a false rumour calculated to create a general alarm, and if he cannot prove that he published it in the interests of the public.

The position which the Government has taken is that, as the section stands now, it is not always possible for the prosecution to prove that the accused knew that what he published was false. But if there is some force in this contention, the Government forgets that much greater force lies in the objection that it will be utterly impossible for the accused to prove that he published a false report knowing it to be true, and that he published it in the interests of the State, and the people. "Better that ninety-nine offenders should escape than one innocent man should be punished." This is the glorious principle upon which the criminal laws of England are based. But the effect of the amendment in the present case would be the reverse of this arrangement. Indeed, no journalist, however careful, can avoid publishing now and then statements, rumours or reports which may afterwards turn out to be false, and which it will not be possible for him to prove, were published in good faith.

It is no doubt, the duty of the Government to see that no offender escapes because of any defect in the law. But the far more important duty of the Government is to guard that no law is passed, which will make it difficult for an accused to prove his innocence. This is all the more necessary in a country like India, where the accused does not enjoy all those safeguards against miscarriage of justice, which have made criminal administration almost perfect in England.

The objection of the Government, that no conviction can be obtained under the existing law, may be completely met, by accepting the suggestion of the Calcutta Bar. If there is a body of eminent men whose deliberations should weigh with the Government in this matter, it is the distinguished Barristers who practise in the Calcutta High Court. And what they suggest in their Note, is to insert the word "false" before "statement" in the existing section; and the words, "having reason to believe it to be false, with intent to cause fear or alarm to the public," to be struck out.

Will the Honble Mr. Chalmers be pleased to explain why he did not accept the above suggestion, which would have met all the requirements of the case?

We shall now refer to the other dangerous changes proposed in the Bill.

In the existing section, we have the words "with intent to cause fear or alarm, &c." in the amended section, the words "or which is likely to cause fear or alarm" are added. Again, in the existing section, it is an offence to cause fear or alarm to the general public; in the proposed section, it is an offence to publish anything which causes or is likely to cause fear or alarm to any section of the public. So it was "general public" before; and it is now restricted to "any section" of the public!

Now, the introduction of the words, "likely to cause" is particularly objectionable, as pointed out in the Note of the Calcutta Bar, as making the evil intent, which is the gist of the offence, unnecessary; so, also, the change of the words "and whereby to induce" which is part of the intent, and the substitution of the words "whereby they may be induced" is, on the same ground, very objectionable. The remarks of the Calcutta Bar on these alterations are so appropriate that we cannot resist the temptation of quoting them here entire:—

The shifting of the burden of proof on to the accused, the burden of proving the truth, which

alone will not be sufficient, and also the burden of proving the absence of evil intent, is without justification or precedent.

The time has not come for making the telling of the truth penal in this country. That is to say, *adieu* to all honest journalism, if the amended section be made law, according to the Calcutta Bar.

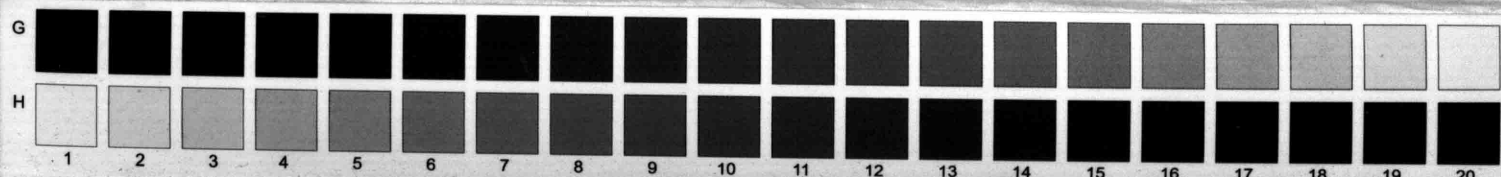
But, we have not yet come to the end of these changes, each of which threatens a blow at the liberty of the press. Mr. Chalmers has added a brand new section (c) to the existing clause, namely, if anything is published with intent to incite, or which is likely to incite, any class or community of persons to commit any offence against any other class or community, it shall be punishable. But, have we not already got the same thing in the new section 153 A, which has been chopped off the Sedition Clause and formed into a new section? It seems to us that there is very little difference between "promoting feelings of enmity and hatred between different classes" as in section 153 A, and "exciting any class to commit an offence against any other class." We really wonder that this redundancy did not occur to the Law Member. All the arguments we used against the newly-introduced section 153 A, apply to this addition (c) with greater force.

We said that it is impossible for any newspaper, however well managed, not to publish false reports, rumours or statements now and then. Indeed, it is the duty of the journalist to publish alarming rumours now and then, even knowing them to be false, for the purpose of neutralising their mischievous effects through the intervention of the authorities. We may cite a case which actually happened. During the late Calcutta riots a rumour was circulated by some designing badmashes to the effect that a large number of upcountry Mussalmans had started to help the rioters. The conductors of a local paper did not believe in the truth of the rumour. They also knew that the publication of the rumour would cause a good deal of alarm to the Calcutta public, which was then in a state of distraction. But yet they gave publicity to it in the belief that the authorities should know that such a rumour was circulating and keeping up the spirits of the badmashes, and that the mischief should be nipped in the bud by an official contradiction to it. As a matter of fact, they were assured by the police that there was no foundation for the rumour, and prompt steps were also taken by the authorities to stop its circulation. If Mr. Chalmers' amendments were then the law of the land, the conductors of the newspaper, which had done such signal service, might have been hauled up and given two years' rigorous imprisonment.

Take, again, an imaginary case which may happen any day. Suppose, a telegram reaches the editor of a Calcutta daily at 2 P. M. in the morning, announcing that a regiment of Sepoys at Lahore is mutiniously disposed. The sender of the telegram is known to the editor, and the former heard the rumour from a friend upon whom he could rely. The editor naturally takes the news in good faith, and publishes it for the information of the Government and the public. In the end, it transpires that the editor or his informant was hoaxed. Is it just, he should be given two years' hard labour? Mind, if the information had proved correct, the editor would have done a most valuable service to the State.

The amended section, it passed into law, will not only put a stop to the publication of false rumours, but also, along with these, informations which may prove eminently useful to Government. Under the present law, a newspaper has the privilege of publishing not only true, but also false, rumours with the object of warning the authorities. Let the authorities not disturb it, for their own good. For, the publication of even false news, though it may cause alarm to the public, has its advantages. What they have to do is to select the grain from the chaff, and thus govern an alien country without committing serious blunders. But, Mr. Chalmers' amendments, if given effect to, will place a gag in the mouth of the press, and the Government will get neither the chaff nor the grain.

The District Superintendent of Police, Multan, had a most extraordinary experience on Wednesday morning. He had to borrow cooking utensils for the preparation of his *chota daar*. All his *baiton* had been carried off by thieves overnight from his kitchen.



THE Bill relating to Extra-territorial offences, which came out of the hands of the Select Committee about a fortnight ago will be presented at the next meeting of the Council on Friday, and passed. The sedition section, 124A, section 505 and the new section 153A, of the Penal Code, are also included in this Bill. It is not clear whether the entire Bill, including the above sections, will be passed, or only that portion of it which relates to Extra-territorial offences. Let us hope, the Government, in deference to public opinion, will not insist on passing that part of the Bill which contains sections 124A, 153A and 505. If it is, however, determined to have the whole Bill passed, then we trust all the non-official members will enter a united protest against the action of the Government.

In our issue of 29th ultimo, we published the following telegram from Mahi-gun (Rungpur):—

There is great commotion at Gaibandha. The students of the Gaibandha School were celebrating the Saraswati Puja this year, as in previous years, at the school premises amidst rejoicings, when the school duffri was suddenly arrested by a Sub-Inspector of Police under the orders of the S. D. O., Babu Brojendra Nath Roy. He was, however, let off, after having been kept in confinement in the Sub-divisional Court-house for about two hours without any sort of charge being preferred against him. Soon after, the Sub-divisional Officer appeared on the scene in person with a posse of Police Sub-Inspectors, constables and orderlies, and arrested ten of the drummers on the school premises, long after 6 P. M. and after candle-light. Babu Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, pleader, appearing for the accused, was ordered off the Court, as soon as he intimated his intention of appearing for the defence, as the Magistrate said he would be called in as a witness for the prosecution, and on his protesting, was called in at once to the witness-box. Notwithstanding the application of the accused under sec. 526A, Cr. P. C., for time to move a higher court to transfer the case from his file, the trial was held after 8 P. M., and without calling upon the accused to enter upon any defence, convicted them summarily and sentenced them to a fine of rupees ten each, or in default, to undergo seven days' imprisonment. The local public, however, immediately had the accused released by paying the fine. The teachers were also threatened to be placed in the dock, and efforts were made to drag in other gentlemen, but they failed. The people are panic-stricken.

The last *Sanjibani* contains two letters, purporting to throw further light on the case. It originated thus, according to the writers of these communications. The students of the local school thought of celebrating the Saraswati Puja at the school premises and made some preparations to give solemnity to the occasion. On the evening previous to the Puja day, drummers were playing the drums and rockets were being fired off. The noise, thus produced, disturbed the equanimity of the Sub-divisional Officer, who was then doing work in his *ijlas*. There are two different versions as to the circumstances which led to the arrest of the drummers. According to the prosecution, the Sub-divisional Officer sent his Court Sub-Inspector to the school premises, asking the promoters of the Puja to stop all sorts of noise, but they would not hear him. The defence, however, deny this, and say that the drummers were never asked to stop music, &c. They adduced evidence, in the course of the trial, to prove that the Court Sub-Inspector, who carried the instruction of the Sub-divisional Officer, saw only Babu Devendra Prasad Bagchi, Moonsiff, who was alleged to have said that the order of the Sub-divisional Officer was illegal, and that he had no authority to stop the music. This reply, it was urged by the defence, inflamed the mind of the Sub-divisional Officer. Be that as it may, the return of the Court Sub-Inspector was followed by the Sub-divisional Officer himself with a number of policemen entering the school premises and making several arrests. That very night, the accused were tried summarily, convicted and fined, as stated in the telegram. In the letters, referred to, are related a few incidents that happened in the course of the trial, which show that the Sub-divisional Officer was not at the time in a judicial frame of mind, and should not have tried the case. When a teacher of the school came to know the offence for which the duffri was arrested, the Sub-divisional Officer is alleged to have said, "I am going to put all the teachers in the dock." He asked another teacher if he was not aware that firing-off rockets was illegal. He repeated the same question to the Head Master of the school. The pleader for the accused applied for a transfer of the case to some other Court; but the Sub-divisional Officer's order rejecting the application was communicated along with his sentences on the accused.

If a part of what has been stated above be true, the conduct of the Sub-divisional Officer of Gaibandha demands the serious attention of the Government. The most striking feature of the whole affair is that he tried a case in which he himself was so vitally interested, and that he held the trial at night and disposed of it in hot haste. Such conduct as this on the part of a Magistrate should not be ignored by Government in the interests of public welfare.

After the above was written, we got a letter from Gaibandha, bitterly complaining against some of the doings of the Sub-divisional Officer. The correspondent ends his letter as follows:—

The local bar and the *dite* are going to send a representation to the authorities, setting forth therein the extraordinary proceedings of our Sub-divisional Officer. Affidavits have already been sworn to, in support of the representation. The copy of the representation and other papers will be sent to you shortly.

We take the following from the *Pioneer*:—

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which has been conducting a remarkably vigorous and sustained attack upon the proposed amendments of the sedition law, now publishes a list of the public bodies, European and native, which have entered protests against the provisions of the Bill. The list is as follows. (Here follows the list):—

We have excellent reasons for quoting the above; for, this is the first time that the *Pioneer* has paid a compliment to the *Patrika*. We hope, this feeling of amity between the two communities in India will continue. We need British rule for our very existence; but we cannot help protesting against measures which seem to us obnoxious. If the natives of India can secure the advocacy of the *Pioneer* in times of emergency, they will find in him a host.

For sometime past a copy of the petition of Swami Srikrishnananda to His Honour Sir A. MacDonnell has been lying on our table. As our readers will remember, the Swami was charged under sections 376, 511, and 354, I. P. C. and was condemned to three years' rigorous imprisonment. The petitioner urges that the case against him was a got-up one, and supports his statement with facts and figures quoted from the paper-book, which go a good deal in his favour. As the conviction has been upheld by the highest Judicial Court in the land, we have nothing to say on the merits of the case. But having regard to the facts that the prisoner was only a religious preacher, that he has already served out about a third of his terms of imprisonment, that he is keeping indifferent health and that some of the jurors found him not guilty, we hope, His Honour will see his way to exercise his prerogative of mercy in this case.

The latest information about Mr. Tilak is that he is doing tolerably well in the Poona Jail. His weight has, however, been reduced to about 108 lbs, that is, 2 lbs less than the minimum. He is given light work, and gets better diet than he used to do previously.

CHAPKAR, as the reader is aware, has appealed to the Bombay High Court against the death sentence passed on him. As the record has not come to Bombay, the matter will not likely come up for hearing before a fortnight. Chapkar will be properly defended in the High Court.

OUR Bombay correspondent writes under date Feb. 10:—

We are in the midst of a big storm since yesterday. Most of the Segregation and Health Camps were blown away by the winds; and the inmates, I hear, were let loose to go wherever they pleased, to find shelter. This nature has undone in one night the work of several months, of Government officers!

THERE would have been no necessity for a public meeting if the Select Committee had paid some deference to public opinion, European and Indian, on the sedition measure. But, in spite of the assertion of Mr. Chalmers that the Select Committee had accepted the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce almost in their entirety, everybody knows, it did nothing of the kind, for the simple reason that the Chamber's representation reached the Legislative Department after the labours of the Committee had been brought to a close. Mr. Chalmers might repeat what he said before, and thus create the impression that the amended Bill not only contains the suggestions of the Chamber almost in their entirety, but also of other Associations. He might easily take this attitude in view of the fact that no public body has hitherto entered a protest against the amended Bill. A public meeting is thus required to declare distinctly that the Select Committee's Report has given no satisfaction whatever, that the improvements made are nominal, and that the amended Bill is practically the same as the original measure. It goes without saying that the proposed measure will be attended by all classes of people; for, the feeling against the measure is very strong. Indeed, every one ought to consider it a duty to attend and enter his protest against a Bill which threatens to take away liberty of speech and writing. The meeting, as the reader is aware, will be held at the Town Hall at 5 p. m. on Thursday next. Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee will preside, and such distinguished speakers, as the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Bannerji and Kali Charan Bannerjee, will take part in the proceedings. Babu Ravindra Nath Tagore will also address the meeting in Bengalee.

So India is not, after all, to have the expected grant in the shape of England's contribution towards the cost of the war on the frontier. If this decision of the Home Government will produce bitter disappointment and despair in the minds of the Indians, the circumstances under which it has come about will add "salt to the wound", as the phrase goes. Only in November the finances of this country were considered in so hopeless a condition that a grant from the English exchequer was deemed necessary to afford them relief. But scarcely two months have elapsed since then, and the Home Government now find the financial prospects of the Indian exchequer so much improved as not to need any financial help from England. The fact is, as our London correspondent says, the so-called

improvement is a mere plea. The curious part of the thing is that India is to be denied the grant, not to afford relief to the British tax-payer but for the benefit of sugar growers in the West Indies, who have enlisted the sympathy of Mr. Chamberlain who now practically rules England. In other words, the grant which the British exchequer was to have made to India, will now be utilized in the interests of the sugar-growers in the West Indies whose number does not exceed two lakhs. Nor is this all. There is a simple method by which the latter might be relieved of their present financial difficulties, without at all interfering with Indian interests. A countervailing duty on sugar imported to England from foreign countries, would have very well served the interests of the West-Indian sugar-growers. But that would be going against the principles of Free Trade, and so India must suffer. Is not this sort of treatment heartless, nay, cruel?

There are six parties who are interested in India, viz. the British people, Parliament, the British Cabinet, the India Government, the Anglo-Indians and the Indians. As for the English people, we can expect very little from that quarter. Their ignorance of Indian affairs is proverbial. Then comes Parliament. It is either too indolent or too incompetent to look after Indian matters. Its whole attention and energy is taken up by home politics. As for the members of the Cabinet, they very naturally care more for their own places than India's welfare. Few of them would risk the displeasure of Mr. Chamberlain to serve India, for, if Mr. Chamberlain forsakes the Tories in a pet, Lord George Hamilton ceases to exist, and the whole structure of the Conservative Ministry breaks down. As to the India Government, Lord Elgin's terms have well high expired, his Lordship's connection with India ceasing in less than a year. The Indians are placed in such deplorable condition that they are utterly helpless to protect their own interests. Perhaps, next to the Indians, the most interested party in the permanence of British rule in India are the non-official Anglo-Indians. They can, of course, hold their own. Their voice carries weight both here and in England. Will they allow this sort of injustice to India to go on without a protest? One thing is certain. If they set out a movement to protest against the heartless manner in which India is being sacrificed for the benefit of a handful of officials, they will find strong support from the natives of the soil.

THE *Indian Daily News* has the following paragraph:—

It was rumoured last week that the Home Government had sent out orders to release Tilak, and that terms were being made with him as to having no demonstration. This is quite the right course, and should have been adopted months ago immediately after the conviction, as we suggested at the time. The signs of the release are in the air, for, oddly enough, some one, called "Olive Branch", writes a letter to the *Times of India* suggesting it, and next day the Bombay Government announce that a certain class of sick prisoners will be released; but the whole thing has been rather clumsy. There is no doubt that Tilak has lost a good deal of weight, and we believe representations were made at home by the Howard Society on his behalf as to the treatment of political offenders, to whom, contrary to the practice of every civilized nation, the Legislative Council wishes to give rigorous imprisonment. This will be of some interest to the society to which Mr. Chalmers, we believe, belongs for the study of comparative legislation.

Yes, the rumour in Bombay is that orders have come from England to release Mr. Tilak. We heard of it two weeks ago. We were further told that the Bombay authorities offered to release him if he would agree to certain terms, but which he did not see his way to accept. We cannot vouch for the truth of these rumours; but, it is a fact that the Howard Association was moved on behalf of Mr. Tilak and that the members of that philanthropic body wrote to the Secretary of State to ask the Bombay Government to accord him a better treatment. Most probably, it is owing to the exertions of the Howard Association that a better treatment is being now accorded to him. We were not aware that Mr. Chalmers is a member of the Howard Association. This shows that he is a philanthropist, and his heart may yet be moved on behalf of the people of this country.

VLADIMIR BOURTSEFF, prosecuted by the Crown on a charge of soliciting, encouraging and persuading persons to murder the Czar, has been sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour. That is just the punishment awarded to Mr. Tilak.

WHEN the people of Poona shrieked in their agony that they preferred death at home than the rigours of a segregation hospital, the authorities attributed the outburst to prejudice and perversity. But, the manner in which the plague patients are being treated in Bombay, has evoked protests even from Europeans who can speak with authority and whose motives are above all suspicion. No one has studied the question of the bubonic plague with greater care than Dr. Blaney of Bombay, and if there is a medical gentleman in India whose opinion is entitled to respect, it is he. In the beginning he was a firm believer in the contagious and infectious character of the plague, and necessarily a warm supporter of the segregation theory. Certain facts, however, came to his

notice, while treating plague patients, which left no room for doubt in his mind that it was not quite true that the disease could be communicated by touch, and that, therefore, the advantages of segregation camps were very doubtful. Dr. Blaney's heresy, of course, raised a hornet's nest against him from among the orthodox experts who had pinned their faith in segregation; but while the latter assailed him with assertions, Dr. Blaney met them with stubborn facts and figures. The Doctor has again come to the front in the name of humanity. His letter to the *Times of India*, which is published in another column, will show how sorely pained he is at the dreadful spectacle of the dying men being dragged from their home and made to breathe their last in the course of a few minutes or few hours in the plague hospital. It is quite evident that familiarity with these scenes of horror has so much deadened the feelings of the citizens of Bombay that the inhumanity of the act does not strike them at all. The impassioned tone of Dr. Blaney's communication will, we hope, draw the attention of the authorities to the subject, and make them realize the situation in the same way as the good Doctor has himself been able to do.

OUR latest information from Hyderabad is that the public there are yet in the dark as to the result of Mr. Plowden's mission to Calcutta. That it had something to do with the present financial embarrassment of the Nizam, there is no doubt. But the secrecy observed regarding the interview between the Viceroy and Mr. Plowden, has invested the affair with an extraordinary significance; for, it is an open secret that Mr. Plowden who at first put up at the Indian Service Club, afterwards removed to the Government House, though the intervening spaces were not many yards.

SIR ARTHUR HAVELOCK, the Governor of Madras, has shown remarkable moral courage and sense of justice. Mr. Mangesha Rao, Assistant Inspector, Salt Department, incurred the displeasure of a superior European official. This was followed by a prosecution on a charge of forgery. He was convicted and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. The appellate court upheld the finding of the lower court. Though convicted by two courts of law, the Madras public, not satisfied as to his guilt, made a representation to the Governor, praying for mercy on behalf of the prisoner. The result was the re-instatement of the latter to his post. We think, this is the first time that native public opinion has received such special consideration at the hands of the ruler of a province, with reference to a case in which not only a native official had incurred the displeasure of his European superior, but was also held guilty by two European Judges.

SIR JOHN WOODBURN, Home Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, is expected back this week.

THE Government of Bengal has decided that members of the Covenanted Civil Service of India should decide whether to select the executive or the judicial branch of the Service on completion of nine years' service.

THE Rafai-Am Association of Lucknow has addressed the Government of India in opposition to the Sedition Bill, urging the withdrawal of the new provisions proposed, on the ground that "they are very suspiciously regarded by all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in this country." There was also a large and influential public meeting for the same purpose at Berhampore in the Ganjam District. Then, on the 11th, a meeting of the Tinnevely Bar Association was held under the presidency of Mr. David, Barrister-at-Law.

MR. S. G. BHANAP, Sanskrit Teacher, Elphinstone High School, writes to the "Times of India" from the Poona Observation Camp:—"I left Bombay with my wife and child to proceed to Yeot station with a pass from the Bombay Plague Committee on casual leave. Regarding the pass, I am kept in Poona Segregation camp. What is the good of the pass? And why does the Plague Committee issue passes when they are only to put people to inconvenience as they are quite unprovided with anything?" In commenting upon this, the "Times" observes that this is a fit subject for an interpellation in the Council.

THE Bengal Government has placed Rs. 31,600 at the disposal of the authorities of the East Indian Railway for expenditure in connection with the shed for the Chausa Segregation Camp.

It has been ruled that Uncovenanted Medical Officers, holding the appointment of Civil Surgeon, may, if deputed to plague duty, draw plague allowances at rates admissible to officers of the Indian Medical Service in Civil employ.

REPORTERS were excluded from Damodar Chapekar's examination in the Yerrowda Jail Office in the case against his brother Balkrishna Chapekar on Saturday last. It transpired, however, that Damodar said nothing new, but persisted in a denial of his confession. In answer to some questions put to him, Damodar Chapekar admitted some of his previous statements concerning his brother.

COLONEL MAYNE'S troops have returned to Turbat after destroying Chabuk fort. The Nasirabad fort will be destroyed when it has been evacuated by the Khan of Khelat's troops, and Colonel Mayne will afterwards proceed to Maud on the arrival of transport and supplies from Pashni. The Maud villages, which shared in the attack on Captain Burn's camp, will be punished later on.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, JAN. 28.

LORD G. HAMILTON'S INCONSISTENCIES.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON went out of his way to make a fool of himself by attacking Mr. Asquith's statement last week that the culminating blunder of the so-called forward policy was the construction, in defiance of the proclamation of the Indian Government, from Peshawar to Chitral, of a road 200 miles in length. Lord George, in his slap-dash way, often forgets to-day, what he said yesterday, if he can give a passing slap at a political opponent and score a point with a Tory meeting. So he made the following extraordinary statement:—

Mr. Asquith did not stop to enquire who it was who made the road. The Radical papers have for the last two years assumed that I am responsible for the construction of that road. I have kept silent; I like my opponents to come with themselves. The road was not made by me, but by the late Government, and it was in existence before we came into office. . . . The late Government have never taken the trouble to ascertain that they are responsible for the making of this road, and they have been spending the last four months in denouncing us for doing that in which we had no hand or part.

Lord George ought to have remembered what he is unpleasantly reminded of by half-a-dozen leading Liberal papers the day after his speech, that he has, on many occasions, in and out of Parliament, taken special credit to the present Government for having constructed this very road. In the debate in the House of Commons on Chitral, September 3rd, 1895, he declared the intention of the Government to construct this very road, saying:—

If we retire, and do not make this road, we shall possibly never get so favourable an opportunity again of constructing this line of communication, and our retirement would probably be final. . . . The important question at present is, whether a new road shall be made direct from Peshawar to Chitral. This is indeed strange language to have used if the road had already been constructed by the late Government.

But in February, 1896, Lord George was able to boast that the Peshawar-Chitral road was completed, and he took credit to the Government for having done it. He said:—

The present Government has succeeded in making an excellent road from Peshawar to Chitral, and the tribes through whose territory it passed had, of their own accord, undertaken to protect it.

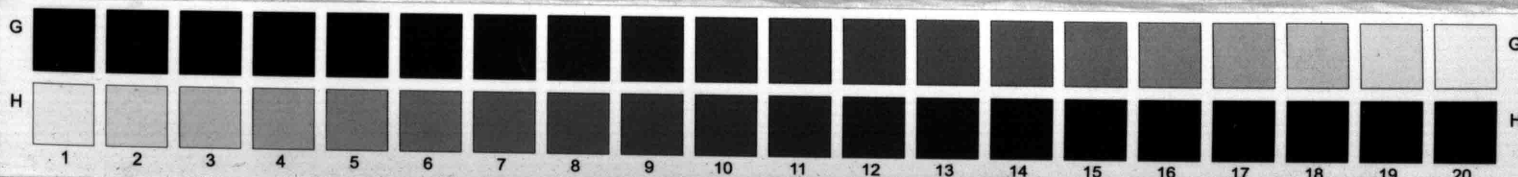
Now Lord George has placed himself on the horns of a dilemma. Either in 1896 he took credit to himself and his Government for having made an excellent road, which credit was really due to his predecessors; or else, now that the road has become unpopular, he is eating his own words for the sake of a snap shot at Mr. Asquith. It is such petty tricks, as these that more than anything else produces the conviction, now universal, that Lord George is a very second-rate statesman, who should never have been promoted beyond an Under-Secretaryship.

LORD GEORGE ON INDIAN FINANCES.

The Secretary of State referred at some length to the condition of Indian Finance, informing his audience that India has shown great power of recuperation, that the revenue was coming in well, that the frontier expenditure would be much less than was anticipated, that the Indian Government would have no deficit in the present year, and looked for a "large and substantial surplus" in the next financial year. On the strength of this very optimistic and rosy prospect, Lord George threw over finally the promise made by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and declared that under these fine financial prospects it would be highly unwise to help India from the British Exchequer. In my opinion, the prosperity or bankruptcy of India does not affect by one-anna the question as to whether India is to be called upon to pay the cost of these mad and discredited expeditions beyond her own frontier; and I think Lord George will find that this will be the view taken by the Opposition leaders when he meets them in the House. Lord George Hamilton sees the financial salvation of India in the new proposals for a fixed monetary standard. Give us "a stable rupee," he cries, "and British capital will pour into the country, and all will be well." This is what he says about it.

If once the idea gets abroad that the Imperial Exchequer is behind the Indian Exchequer, the check on expenditure would be greatly vitiated, if not lost. But there is assistance and help in various ways which this country might be able to give to India. In this country there is a great accumulation of capital, and in India there is immense productive capacity which has not yet been fully developed; but unfortunately India does not get the benefit of British capital. This is due to the fluctuations in exchange. Men will not risk their capital in India if by the automatic fluctuations in exchange they cannot remit it back except at enormous loss. As soon as I came into office I was anxious to see whether it was not possible to give some stability to the exchange value of the rupee. That can either be done by some international arrangement or by India endeavouring to establish a standard of her own, necessarily a gold standard.

Proposals were made to us last summer by Senator Wolcott to enter into a bimetallic conference; but those proposals were confronted by the difficulty that France would only consent to join on understanding that the ratio at which silver should be taken to gold should be as 15½ to 1, whereas it is now 35. In our view that was an impossible proposal, because it would be almost impossible to maintain that ratio; and if it had gone back, it would have caused far worse disasters, I believe, however, that the difficulties in the way of India establishing a standard of her own, are not so insuperable as some believe, and I think that it is not impossible that in the next year we may possibly make possible that a material advance towards that object. If we could ever establish a gold standard in India fixing the stable exchange of the rupee at 16½, subject only to the fluctuations of trade, the advantage to India would be enormous. At the present moment the great industries of tea, and indigo, and jute, are carried on to a large extent by borrowed money, and in India money can only be borrowed at from 6 to 10 per cent. On the other hand, if you can secure anything like a stable exchange, you would have all the hoarded capital in this country waiting for employment, ready to be used in developing the resources of India. Therefore I am hopeful that if it be necessary in any way to have recourse to the establishment of a gold standard, this country could materially assist India, and I venture to say that that would do India infinitely more good than any temporary loan of a million or two to meet the expenses of the frontier war.



These few closing words of Lord George's speech show how utterly he fails to appreciate the true aims of the financial reformers at whom they cut. No Congress politician asks for a temporary loan of a million or two. What they demand is, that was undertaken in support of an Imperial policy dictated from Downing Street, shall be no financial burden to a section of the Empire, but shall fall entirely upon Imperial revenues. Men of Lord George's contracted souls persist in representing India as a beggar, clamorous for alms, not as a just creditor demanding restitution of money obtained under false pretences. He will know better a month hence, after the Frontier debates in Parliament have taken place.

MR. A. M. BOSE'S WORK.

Mr. A. M. Bose is not content with his campaign in S. E. Durham; he has arranged for a big political meeting at Peterborough, and another at Wisbech, both important places, and is negotiating for others. It ought to be known to his friends in India that he does all this admirable work entirely on his own initiative and quite apart from any committee or organization.

SIR WILLIAM MARKBY ON THE SEDITION BILL.

Sir William Markby is entitled to speak with special authority on anything relating to the domestic politics of India. He has written a letter to the "Spectator" on the Indian press, which is worth quoting. He says to the editor:

If, as I believe to be the case, you are still of opinion that some liberty of the press should be retained in India, it is certain that you are right in wishing that the Magistrate should have power to dispose summarily of offences under Sec. 124A? Two things must be borne in mind, first, that the Magistrate in India represents the Government, and the native press "the Opposition." The state of things proposed, therefore, would be paralleled here if press offences could be dealt with by the heads of the police, and care were taken that the heads of the police should always be warm partisans of the Government. The picture drawn by Lord Elgin of officers of Government warmly welcoming the criticism of the press, is a purely imaginary one, if by criticism he meant strong and effective criticism, and unless he meant this his words have no meaning. The liberty of Press means nothing unless it means freedom to use language which is strong and if necessary, severe. But no Government and no political party ever really welcomed criticism of this kind. They can sometimes afford to despise it. But if they take it seriously, they are sure to resent it. Even in the calmer walks of literature the magnanimity which welcomes criticism is very rare. The language of the Penal Code very easily lends itself to conviction except in the hands of a thoroughly impartial person. It is the natural consequence of criticism, if effectual, to lessen affection, and if repeated, to produce the contrary. And, of course, as lawyers say, a man may be taken to intend the natural consequences of his acts. There is, it is true, the appeal to the High Court. This is, I fear, the only protection which the Press now has in India.

MR. R. C. DUTT'S PUBLIC LECTURES.

Mr. Romesh C. Dutt, C. I. E., has this week delivered a public lecture on "The Study of Indian History" as the inaugural address of the series of ten weekly lectures which he is to deliver in connection with his recent appointment at University College to the Lectureship on Indian History. The subjects with which he proposes to deal, are comprehended in the title "The history, civilization and religion of the ancient Hindus, as shown in their Ancient Literature." The inaugural address was well attended, with a considerable number of young Indian Law students included in the audience. Mr. Dutt is a very important addition to the growing Indian colony planted in London; and his residence in this country will be of special value to the Congress movement, to which he is entirely loyal.

MORE INDIAN BARRISTERS.

Sixty-four law students have been called to the Bar this week by the four Inns of Court, of whom no less than fifteen are Indians.

THE CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

I am glad to find that the British Committee of the Congress is at last waking up to the importance of public meetings in connection with their agitation in this country. Last Friday Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji and Mr. Fletcher, the editor of the "New Age," went down to Cardiff to address a large public meeting on the Frontier policy, securing a large audience and a very favourable reception. I wish the Committee would arrange for a series of lectures in the most important constituencies by Mr. A. M. Bose. It is hardly to be expected that, a stranger in this country, he should, as he is doing, have to make all his own arrangements.

Acted Like A Charm.

MR. J. HARRY WATERS, Head-Master STATION SCHOOL, RAWALPINDI, says, "I regard Chamberlain's Pain Balm as a most useful household medicine. Have used it for toothache, rheumatism, and once for a very bad scalded foot, and in each of these instances the Pain Balm acted like a charm."

Every one who uses Chamberlain's Pain Balm always speaks in the same terms. It should be kept in every medicine chest.

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AN INCOME-TAX RULE.—It has been decided that in future no claim for income-tax will be made on any officer residing abroad, whose pension is awarded and paid by the Government of India, and that, in the same way, no exemption will be allowed in the case of any officer residing abroad, whose pension is awarded and paid by the Imperial Government.

RAJ APPOINTMENTS IN BEHAR. A Mufussil correspondent writes to the "Behar Herald":—"It seems that all the Raj appointments in Behar have been monopolized by the Indigo Planters. Mr. Fox is reigning at Doornraon, Mr. Buskin at Huthua, and Mr. Lewis at Bettia and now two Assistant Managers posts sanctioned for the Bettia Raj have been given to Mr. Laurie and Mr. Davis. The salaries attached to the posts are said to be Rs. 400 and Rs. 550 a month.

THE HIGH COURT.—The two barrister judgeships which will shortly be vacant in the Calcutta High Court will be filled by the appointment of Mr. G. S. Henderson and Mr. P. O'Kinealy, the former acting for Mr. Justice Hill. This arrangement will create a vacancy in the Standing Counselship, hitherto held by Mr. O'Kinealy. Mr. A. Dunne officiated in this appointment on a previous occasion for eighteen months. As there is some probability, however, of Mr. Dunne's being at home next hot weather, it is not yet certain who will act for Mr. O'Kinealy.

A STRANGE PHENOMENON.—Captain Steer, second officer of the mail-steamer "Britannia," which has just arrived, says:—"On February 8th, at lat. 13°22' N., long. 48°18' E., at 2-52 A.M. mean time, I observed S. half W. true, an enormous ball of a dull red colour, appearing to be about one-eighth of the sun, falling slowly from the heavens, something like a falling star, but without any trail behind it. It fell very much more slowly, and when at an altitude of about three degrees, burst with extraordinary brilliancy, and threw out in all directions what seemed to be flames, lighting up the whole horizon in the south. The phenomenon had the appearance of a falling star as regards colour and size.

SEDITION BILL.—At a public meeting held at Serampur on the 4th instant the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted: That this meeting respectfully submits that the proposed amendments of Section 124A & 505 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code have filled the public mind with alarm, involving as they do a serious departure from the wise and generous policy hitherto followed by the Government of India and tending as they do to efface one of the best and noblest features of British rule in India, and prays that no change ought to be effected in the aforesaid sections; and that the president be authorized to send a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Department.

NEW RULES OF INLAND TELEGRAMS.—The following alterations are notified in the rules for the cancellation of the inland telegrams:—If the sender of an inland telegram wishes to cancel it before transmission has begun, he can do so; and the charges, less a fee of four annas, will be returned. If, however, the telegram has been stamped either by the sender or by the booking-office, and the stamps have been obliterated, the charges can only be refunded on application being made to the Superintendent, Check Office, Government Telegraph Department, Calcutta, within one month of the date of booking the message. If the telegram is in course of transmission, or has already been despatched, it can be cancelled only by a paid Service Advice (Rule 46) addressed to the Terminal Office. If, in addition, the sender wishes to be informed by telegraph, in what manner his request has been acted upon, he must deposit the cost of the return telegram; otherwise he is informed by post.

AN INTELLIGENT DOG.—Here is an instance of wonderful intelligence displayed by a dog in the possession of Choudhri Muhammad Mahmud Khan, Honorary Magistrate, Sambhal. It is a common street cur, without any pretensions to pedigree, and its position in the household was not that of a pet but an ownerless hanger-on suffered to loaf about in the precincts of the mansion. A short time ago a pair of deer, a friend had presented to the Choudhri, broke loose from their pen and disappeared into the jungle which begins at a small distance from the house. Search was made everywhere for them; the hind was found later in the Talsil compound, her old quarters, but no trace was found of the stag. No one had missed the poor pariah that had also been absent since the running away of the *harin*. Think of the astonishment of the family when they saw the canine prodigy return one fine morning, gaunt and footsore, leading the truant in triumph into the courtyard, holding in its teeth the end of the chain that was still fastened to the neck of the beast.

It Is Remarkable.

SAYS MR. W. WILSON, the popular Chemist at RAWALPINDI and MURREE, "How Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has attained a prominence in this district, and though it has only been introduced a few months it has taken the lead. From remarks made by my customers, who have used this remedy, I am convinced that it possesses exceptional qualities. I never hesitate to recommend it to all who are in need of a good cough mixture."

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THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State has sanctioned the re-organization of the clerical establishment in the Home Department of the Imperial Secretariat.

THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE.—Mr. Biddulph Deputy Auditor-General, will proceed on long leave in March. Mr. Rajani Nath Ray, Comptroller, India Treasuries, will officiate, and Mr. F. Atkinson will act for Mr. Ray.

ETYMOLOGY OF 'WHIG' AND 'TORY'.—"The Civil and Military Gazette" tells the following story: A little Hindu girl, whose pronunciation of English, it must be admitted, was imperfect, was asked the derivation of the names of the two great Parties, Whig and Tory. Her reply was prompt:—"The Queen's name is Wictoree, and the parties have shared it between them, one calling itself 'Wic', the other 'Toree'."

A FIND BY A DREAM.—In May last, one Fazar Ali, living in Bhitabariya, in Thana Bhandaria, in Barisal, dreamt a dream in which a person, dressed in red cloth, said to him: "Pour milk and place mangoes on the junction of the Dhone and Kota rivers; then you will get an ample supply of fish there, which will enrich you." Fazar Ali did as he was bid; and thenceforth he is getting a large quantity of fish. He has subsequently found a brazen image of God Shiva there. It is said, the Sub-divisional Officer of Perorepuzar has seen the image, and has reported the matter to the Divisional Commissioner. So says the *Dacca Gazette*.

SEDITION IN Truth.—The *I. D. News* says:—"There seems to be a good deal of seditious writing in *Truth* this week. Judging from our mail telegram, and from an officer too! It violates every one of Mr. Chalmers' new sections and is likely to do all sorts of mischief. We do not know if it is true, but it is what military people have been saying in India for the last few years, and during the last four months very much more. After allowing for a good deal of envy, malice, hatred and all uncharitableness on the part of those who say such things, and who are presumably left out in the cold, we believe that the out-of-sight out-of-mind principle does prevail rather too largely in the British army in India, and as the whole British army cannot go to Simla this is unfortunate."

A QUEER FRONTIER STORY.—We read in the *I. D. News*:—"A story, which we give for what it is worth, reaches us from the frontier. It is said that when Sir William Lockhart's recent speech was made to the Afridi jirgahs on the absurdity of their continuing to oppose the British forces, the leading Zakka Khel chief, in addressing his followers, thus interpreted the terms offered: 'The English General said that 500 of our maidens must be given up to the British soldiers, 500 young wives to the Sikhs, and 500 old women to the Gurkhas.' Naturally the Kakka Khel tribesmen declared with one voice that they would fight to the bitter end."

SENSITIVE JUDGES.—The *Pioneer* says: The learned Judges of the High Court of Hyderabad would seem to be extraordinarily sensitive. About six months ago one of the Judges—not in a judicial capacity—drew up some rules for the guidance of official visitors to the district jails. These rules consisted of 187 questions, all of which the visitor was supposed to answer, some of them being such absurd questions as: What is the name of the Superintendent? Where did he last come from? &c., &c. A newspaper, named the *Deccan Post*, which deals largely with Hyderabad affairs and is published in Bombay, contained an article criticising these rules, and turning them into ridicule. Amongst other things the paper said that if every official visitor had to answer all these questions it would take up at least three weeks of his time, and the consequence would be that no one would visit the jails. The proprietor of this paper is a Mr. Mitra, who, about three months after the appearance of the article, was admitted as a pleader to the Hyderabad Courts. A month or two later, when the Chief Justice, Mr. Khader Bakshi, was presiding at a meeting of the Bar Association, he gave an address on the necessity of studying Mahomedan law. In reviewing this address the paper pointed out that the Chief Justice had omitted to make any mention of Hindu law, which is of equal importance in a country where 99 out of 100 inhabitants are Hindus and deprecated the fact that Hindu pleaders seemed to carry no weight in the High Court, as the Judges only cared for Mahomedan pleaders. A few weeks afterwards, Mr. Mitra was called upon to show cause why he should not be disbarred, (1) on account of the contempt of court contained in the first article; (2) on account of the seditious nature of the second, which was calculated to make the Hindus rise against the Mahomedans; and (3) because, by being the proprietor of a paper, he had broken an order issued by the Chief Justice that no pleader should engage in any other avocation except that of his own profession. If we had not seen the papers connected with this case, we could not have believed so childish an exhibition of sensitiveness to be possible amongst men of even ordinary intelligence. The Judges—for the unfortunate Mr. Mitra had to appear before six of them—seem to have a most extraordinary opinion of their dignity and importance since they hold it to be a contempt of court to criticise what a Judge may say or do outside his judicial capacity. "I am Sir Oracle! Let no dog bark."

Effect Is Marvellous.

O SAYS THOMAS C. FLASHMAN, Esq., the well-known merchant and proprietor of FLASHMAN'S HOTEL, RAWALPINDI, when speaking about some instances where he gave Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy.

He said: "Have much pleasure in testifying to the beneficial results I have experienced from Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy. Whenever I had occasion to use it, it has never failed to check diarrhoea, and often one dose was enough. The effect is marvellous. Have given it to travellers passing through my Hotel, and to my servants many times, and it has always proved efficacious."

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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, if allowed leave for two months and eighteen days, the Hon'ble Mr. M. Finucane, C.S.I., acting for him.

Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, Jt. Magte and Dy. Collr, Purnea, is appointed to act as Magte and Collr, Malda.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Mullick, Offg. Magte and Collr, Murshidabad, is allowed furlough for eight months, under article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Hari Bhusan De, Offg. Dy. Magte and Dy. Collr Dacca, is transferred to Jalpaiguri. Babu Gati Krishna Neogy, Dy. Magte and Dy. Collr Sathkira, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Krishna Dayal Pramanik acting for him.

Babu Doorga Das Mookerjee, Offg. Dy. Magte and Dy. Collr is allowed furlough for three weeks, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Babu Jagadis Chunder Sen, Dy. Magte and Dy. Collr, is posted to Jessore. Babu Romani Mohun Das, Day. Magte and Dy. Collr, Arraria, is transferred to Purnia.

Mr. F. F. Handley, Offg. Dt. and Sessions Judge, 24-Parganas, is allowed furlough for six months and fifteen days, Mr. B. L. Gupta acting for him.

Babu Shamadhuba Roy Dy. Magte and Dy. Collr Darbhanga is allowed leave for three months under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. Jnanendra Nath Gupta, Jt. Magte and Dy. Collr, Khurda, is appointed to act temporarily as Magte and Collr of Puri, Babu Kali Dass Mookerjee, Offg. Dy. Magte and Dy. Collr, Puri, acting for him.

Babu Mohendra Nath Mitter, Sub. Judge, Chittagong, is transferred to Pabna and Bogra.

Babu Dinesh Chandra Roy, Munsif of Hooghly, is transferred to Chandpur.

Babu Purna Chandra Ghosh, Munsif of Chandpur, is transferred to Gaya.

Babu Jadav Chandra Sen, Munsif of Gaya, is transferred to Katihar.

Maulvi Hamid-uddin, Munsif of Katihar, is transferred to Saran.

Babu Prosanna Kumar Basu, Munsif of Othari is transferred to Manikganj.

Babu Romesh Chandra Bose, Munsif of Manikganj, is transferred to Hooghly.

Babu Moti Lal Haldar, Munsif of Buxar, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Tippera.

Babu Thakur Doyal, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Buxar.

The undermentioned officers are vested with powers under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:—Babu Nagendra Nath Gupta, Deputy Magistrate, Supul, Bhagpur, and Babu Raj Mohun Chatterbuj, Deputy Magistrate, Banka, Bhagpur.

Babu Mohar Lal De, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Narayanganj.

Maulvi Amir Ali, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Brahmanbaria.

Babu Hari Chandra Sen, Munsif of Dacca, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Har Kumar Roy, Munsif of Burdwan, is allowed leave for two months, under article 369 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Narendra Krishna Dutt, Munsif of Brahmanbaria, is allowed leave for one month, viz. four days under article 309 of the Civil Service Regulations, and the remaining period under article (b) of the same Regulations.

Babu Benod Behari Mitter, Munsif of Pabna, is allowed leave for twenty-one days, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Romesh Chandra Bose, Munsif of Manikganj, is allowed leave for three weeks, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Mr. Latifur Rahman, Munsif of Patna, is allowed leave for three months, under article 369 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Babu Ananda Chandra Basu, Sub-Dy. Collr, Dacca Division, is posted to Tangail.

Babu Bhubhan Mohan Gupta, Sub-Dy. Collr, Presidency Division, is posted to Bagherhat.

Mr. J. W. Engelbrecht, substantive *pro tempore* Sub-Dy. Collr, is allowed leave for one month, under article 273 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Mr. T. Inglis, Magte and Collr, Patna, is allowed furlough for eleven months.

Mr. L. Hare, Offg. Commissioner of the Dacca Division, is allowed furlough for eight months.

Mr. J. H. Lea, Offg. Magte and Collr, Malda, is allowed furlough for nine months.

Mr. H. Holmwood, District and Sessions Judge, Gaya, is allowed furlough for seven months. Mr. E. G. Drake-Brockman, Offg. Addl. Dist. and Sessions Judge, Tippera, acting for him.

Mr. D. J. Macpherson, C. I. E., Magistrate and Collector, Champaran, is appointed to act as Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the General, Revenue and Statistical Departments, during the absence, on deputation, of the Hon'ble Mr. M. Finucane, C. S. I. Mr. W. Maxwell, Jt. Magte and Dy. Collr, Bhagpur, acting for him.

Mr. H. Savage, Magte and Collr, Gaya, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Acca Division.

Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham, Under-Secy to the Government of Bengal, in the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Gaya.

Mr. W. N. Delevingne, Asst. Commissioner, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Puri.

Mr. W. H. Lee, Offg. Magte and Collr, Puri, is appointed to act as Dist. and Sessions Judge of Bankura.

Mr. E. Geake, Offg. Dist. and Sessions Judge, Bankura, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector, Darbhanga.

Mr. H. LeMesurier, Offg. Magte and Collr, Darbhanga, is transferred to Patna.

Mr. F. E. Kemp, Dist. Supt. of Police, Tippera, is transferred to Jalpaiguri, Mr. W. B. Maxwell Dist. Supt. of Police, acting for him.

Mr. H. M. Parish, Dist. Supt. of Police, Rajshahi, is transferred to Birbhum.

Mr. J. R. Ryan, Asst. Supt. of Police, Saran, is transferred to Rajshahi, and is appointed to have charge of the district police of that district.

Mr. R. B. Hyde, Asst. Supt. of Police, Saran, is transferred to the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Rai Radhika Prosonno Mukerjee, Bahadur, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, is allowed leave for fifty-four days, under articles 291 and 377 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Chandra Mohan Mazumdar, Asst. Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, acting for him.

Mr. F. J. Jeffries, Asst. Magte and Collr, Shaha bad, is transferred to Rajshahi.

Mr. W. S. Adie, Asst. Magt and Collr, Muzaffarpur, is transferred to Murshidabad.

Mr. W. B. Heycock, Asst. Magte and Collr, Darbhanga, is transferred to Burdwan. Mr. E. B. H. Pantan, Asst. Magte and Collr, Murshidabad, acting for him.

Mr. R. A. Rossiter, Asst. Magte and Collr, Nadia, is transferred to Shaha bad.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee, Offg. Member of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, is allowed furlough for eight months.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

NOAKHALI, FEB. 12.

Station Daroga Shish Kanjilal, the complainant, and a Constable were cross-examined yesterday. Three Constables and five Kapurias, servants and one bazar rice-seller were cross-examined to-day. The occurrence took place at 11-30 P. M. The Thanna is two minutes, and the District Superintendent's quarters 4 minutes' journey from the place of occurrence. The District Superintendent got information at 1 A. M. from the Daroga who implicated Bidhu Babu. He met both of them together that night but made no attempt to arrest him then. The first information was alleged to have been recorded. The next morning the Police fled safe without trying to arrest any offenders. The prosecution applied for examining two fresh witnesses after the cross-examination was over. The Court allowed it, though the defence objected. The Court was crowded to suffocation. The defence was conducted by Mr. R. Bose, assisted by Moulvi Bazluohim and others.

ULUBERIA, FEB. 14.

The Uluberia Branch Indian Association deeply deplores to see the introduction of the proposed amendments of the Sedition law. The measure is retrograde and detrimental to the liberty of the press and speech. This Association elects Babu Tinkari Ghose, pleader, as a delegate to the forthcoming Calcutta meeting.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, FEB. 11.

Colonel Picquart was the chief witness in the Zola trial to-day, and he declared that he had seen a secret document which convicted Dreyfus, and also knew the superior officer, whose name he was unable to divulge, who had furnished the documents to a foreign Power. This caused a sensation and demonstrations in Court. Disturbances also took place in the streets, and a Jewish shop was wrecked by the mob.

LONDON, FEB. 11.

In the House of Commons this evening Mr. John Redmond brought forward an amendment to the Address, in favour of an independent Irish Parliament and executive, which was rejected by a majority of 158 votes. Sir William Harcourt declined to support it, because it ignored Imperial supremacy. The Liberals voted with the majority.

LONDON, FEB. 11.

The Queen visited Netley Hospital to-day, made a tour of the wards, and individually spoke words of consolation to the invalids.

LONDON, FEB. 11.

Vladimir Bourtseff, prosecuted by the Crown on a charge of soliciting, encouraging and persuading persons to murder the Czar, has been sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

LONDON, FEB. 12.

Reuter wires from Peking that China has agreed to grant compensation for the kidnapping of the Frenchman in Tonquin by Chinese brigands, and also states that Great Britain has been granted the right to extend the Burma Railway through Yunnan.

LONDON, FEB. 12.

In the Zola trial to-day the Court was occupied in listening to the recriminations of military witnesses, and several animated scenes took place between the Judge and counsel. Otherwise the proceedings were uneventful.

The Dutch liner *Verdam* struck a submerged wreck in the Atlantic, and was sinking when the liner *Saint Louis* hove in sight, lowered boats, and rescued the passengers numbering 127 and the crew of 85.

LONDON, FEB. 14.

Besides the personal reflections on President McKinley contained in Senator Dupuy De Lorme's letter, he also implied the duplicity of Spain in the reciprocity negotiations with the United States. It is now reported that General Woodford, the American Minister at Madrid, has been instructed to demand an immediate disavowal of naval activity on both sides.

The test case regarding the locations of Indians in the Transvaal, will be heard at Pretoria in March.

LONDON, FEB. 14.

Upon the abrogation of the commercial treaties with Germany and Belgium, Canada makes a preferential tariff of 25 per cent. on British and Colonial goods.

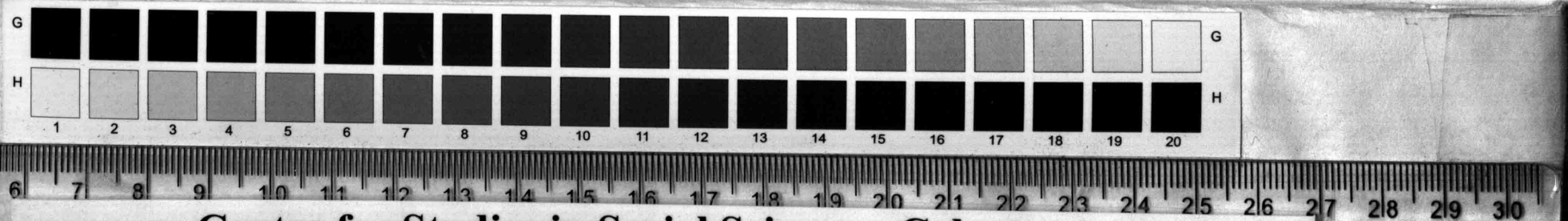
LONDON, FEB. 14.

The Russian cruiser *Tamboff* left Odessa for Vladivostok with a thousand troops on board.

NOTHING of any importance has transpired in connection with the B. I. S. N. officers' strike in Bombay. The steamer "Dumra" arrived from Karachi on Saturday with the mails, the commanders of other vessels acting as officers.

At the meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council on Monday, His Excellency the Governor moved the first reading of the City of Bombay Improvement Bill. It proposes to deal effectively, fairly and promptly with the crowded areas on which buildings were erected years ago, which have been structurally added to, laid out on no particular principle, so closely built that there could be no draught of air, and inside so accommodated that "in many of the rooms," said His Excellency, "their inhabitants can receive no light by day or fresh breath of heaven to carry off the poisonous effluvia," and the principal attribute of which seemed to His Excellency to be "that they had become, on occasion of the visitation of an epidemic, a fertile soil on which malignant diseases may thrive owing to the very nature of the buildings, some of which contain hundreds of lodgers." It is proposed to destroy such buildings and to build chawls on proper principles wherein to house those who will be dislodged.

"LINSSEED COMPOUND." Trade Mark of KAY'S COMPOUND ESSENCE OF LINSSEED. "LINSSEED COMPOUND," a demulcent expectorant for Coughs, Colds, and Chest Complaints. INJUN CATHARTICUM PILLS, digestive, corrective, and agreeably aperient. KAY'S CUE CEMENT.—Tipts Billiard Once Truly. "Your Cement is the best I have ever used."—JOHN BONNIE (Champion), 1896. LINK.—New white Inorganic Cement, almost hydraulic, for Pottery, Firebricks, &c. COAGULINE.—Transparent Cement, for all broken articles. Manufacture, Stockport, England. HESHIRE BIRD LIME.—For Mosquitoes and noxious insects. In tin boxes. To spread on paper, swigs, twigs. KAY'S COMPOUND, Ltd., Stockport, England.



THE SEDITION BILL.

The Honorary Secretary to the Indian Relief Society has just forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department, the following suggestions on the Report of the Select Committee on the Sedition Bill:

I have been desired by the Committee of the Indian Relief Society to offer the following suggestions on the Report of the Select Committee on the Sedition Bill and request that you will be good enough to submit them for the consideration of His Excellency, the Governor-General and the Members of His Excellency's Council.

My Committee regret that the Sedition Bill was referred to the Select Committee without publishing it in the *India Gazette* and the Local *Gazettes* of the different Provinces and Administrations, and that a vernacular translation of the same was not circulated for the purpose of giving the mass of the people an opportunity of studying the subject and making known their sentiments and views upon it.

My Committee further regret to observe that the Select Committee on the said Bill finished its work in such a hurry that the representations of the Chamber of Commerce and many other Associations, including our own, did not and could not receive any consideration at its hands, as they were received too late for that purpose by the Secretary to the Legislative Council.

That in the humble opinion of my Committee the amended Bill of the Select Committee is very disappointing, inasmuch as it is practically the same as the original Bill. My Committee fully endorse the following opinion of the *Englishman* on the subject:—

The Select Committee, in fine, appears to have been travelling in a circle during the five weeks in which it has been at work on the Bill, and has brought us out exactly where we were when the Bill was submitted to the Council for the first time. If the Bill is passed as it has left the Committee, the result will be exactly what it would have been if it had been approved of at the first reading.

The result is all the more to be deplored, as it has been arrived at in spite of the earnest protests of the leaders of public opinion, both European and Indian. The following list will show that there is scarcely a public body in the country, European or Indian, which has not dissented from the principle of the measure and disapproved of its provisions generally:—

- (1) British Indian Association.
- (2) European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association.
- (3) Mahajan Sabha, Madras.
- (4) Conference of Representative Men in Calcutta.
- (5) Inhabitants of Madras.
- (6) Bombay Presidency Association.
- (7) Bar Library, Calcutta.
- (8) Bengal Chamber of Commerce.
- (9) Indian Relief Society.
- (10) Inhabitants of Krishnagur.
- (11) Vakeels' Association, Calcutta.
- (12) Inhabitants of Barrisal.
- (13) Faridpur People's Association.
- (14) Pleaders' Association, Bombay.
- (15) Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.
- (16) Nagpur Malguzars.
- (17) Bombay public meeting.
- (18) Triplicane Literary Society.
- (19) Purulia Bar Association.
- (20) Chittagong Association.
- (21) Rajshahi Association.
- (22) Baranagar Rate-payers' Association.
- (23) Tipperah Bar Association.
- (24) Bar Library, Dacca.
- (25) Mysnensing Association.
- (26) Ahmedabad Legal Practitioners' Association.
- (27) Bhagalpur Bar Association.
- (28) Gya Bar Association.
- (29) Inhabitants of Serampur.
- (30) Indian Association.
- (31) Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

My Committee beg to point out that in one point all the Associations are at one, namely, that the existing Section 124A needs no other change than a clearer definition of the word "disaffection." For instance, the Anglo-Indian Defence Association says:—

The Council are strongly of opinion that no amendment is required in section 124A beyond the addition of a definition which they think might run as follows:— "Feelings of disaffection mean all feelings incompatible with a disposition to render obedience to the lawful authority of the Government established by law in British India, and to support the lawful authority thereof against unlawful attempts to subvert or resist that authority."

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce remarks:—

The Committee do not consider that any special amendment is required in Section 124A, as it stands at present; but would suggest that a clearer definition of the word "disaffection," than that given in Explanation I, is desirable. With regard to Explanation II, they would also suggest that it should be recast on the lines of the second paragraph of Article 93 of the Digest of the Criminal Law by Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, which expresses with very great lucidity what is not a seditious intention.

The Note of the Calcutta Bar, which was adopted at a meeting of the members, presided over by the Advocate-General, Sir Charles Paul, contains a similar suggestion in still more clear language, as the following quotation from it will show:—

Taking it then that sec. 124A ought to be confined to offences against the State, what appears to be needed is a definition of "feelings of disaffection." The Indian Law Commissioners consider this was unnecessary, and in answer to comment, they said: "It seems to us that by the explanation the discretion of the Judge is pretty well guided and limited," and in support of it, said that "the offence which the clause is intended to punish, is that of attempting to excite feelings of disaffection to the Government," and to guard against too wide a construction of this term, and to give free scope to that kind of temperate discussion and criticism of public measures which is conducive to the public good, an explanation is subjoined, declaring that by "disaffection" is not meant "such a disapprobation of the measures of Government as is compatible with a disposition to render obedience to the lawful authority of Government against unlawful attempts to subvert or resist that authority." Further, quoting from the Digest of the *English Law* Commissioners, they said that "mere vague words, random, ought not indeed to be

brought within this clause; unless they be words of advice, direction or persuasion, tending to excite a degree of disaffection incompatible with a disposition to render obedience, &c., and spoken under circumstances indicating a design to cause such excitement &c."

It is hardly necessary to remind the Government that the above three Associations, including papers like the *Englishman*, the *Indian Daily News*, the *Statesman* and *Capital*, voice the intelligent portion of the Anglo-Indian community, and that their views are therefore entitled to considerable respect from the Legislature. Their opinion is all the more valuable, as these European bodies (the Calcutta Bar Association is more European than Native) came to the above conclusion after mature deliberation on the subject.

Many other Associations, while agreeing in the above, are further of opinion that the existing Section 124A needs change in another respect, namely, with regard to the extreme punishment provided by the section. The Calcutta Bar offers the following suggestion on this point:—

The punishment for seditious libel ought in any event to be reduced to simple imprisonment extending only to two years, so as to bring it into conformity with the law in England.

The Conference of the representatives of Calcutta, which was presided over by such a distinguished nobleman as, Maharajah Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, makes the same suggestion in their representation. Says the Conference:—

The Conference would respectfully point out that the present opportunity ought to be availed of, to remove from the section the punishment of transportation and to reduce the term of imprisonment from ten to two years, as is the law in England.

The Indian Relief Society also made the same prayer in its first representation, on the Sedition Bill.

The Hon'ble P. Ananda Charlu, Rai Bahadur, C. I. E., in his Note of dissent, suggests the same thing, and the remarks of the Hon'ble Maharajah of Darbhanga are to the same effect.

But, above all, my Committee would beg to draw special attention to the following extract from the observations of the Law Commissioners, appointed to examine and report on the various sections of the Draft Penal Code in 1837, on the severe character of the punishment provided by the original framers of the section:—

We have remarked that there are only three clauses (113, 114, and 290) in which banishment from the territories of the East India Company is authorized as the primary punishment of offences. In commenting upon clause 113, we reserved our opinion upon the propriety of the punishment of banishment for the offence of attempting to excite feelings of disaffection to the Government, therein defined, and we should have maturely considered the Chapter of Punishments. We have now to submit our opinion that it would be an unwarrantable severity to inflict the punishment of banishment for life upon a Native of the East India Company, constantly domiciled there from birth, for the offence in question. Probably the extreme penalty of banishment for life was not intended to be applied to persons of this description, but to temporary inhabitants. It might perhaps be sometimes politically expedient to banish a temporary inhabitant, convicted of attempting to excite disaffection to the Government for life. But we do not think it consistent with the principles upon which the penal provisions of the Code have been constructed generally, to extend the punishment beyond the measure of the offence upon any such consideration. We think, the punishment of banishment is a fit punishment for the offence; but we would recommend that the term be limited to five years, as the term of simple imprisonment, which may be inflicted in the alternative, is limited to three years.

My Committee submit that, if three scores of years ago, the unsettled state of the country justified the framers of the section, to some extent, to provide such an extreme measure as banishment for life, the peaceful condition of the Empire does not warrant the retention of such a severe punishment at the present moment. Further, the exalted position of the Law Commissioners and the strong terms in which they criticise the severe character of the punishment, make it incumbent upon the Legislature to adopt their recommendation.

To summarise the views expressed above:—

That the only change required in section 124A is that the word, "disaffection" should be defined on the lines indicated above; that no such general and vague words as "hatred," "contempt," and "enmity," which were used in the old indictments and deliberately omitted from section 124A, by Sir James Stephen, should be introduced into the section; and that the punishment should be reduced from transportation for life to two years' simple imprisonment.

In conclusion, my Committee beg to submit that if the Government be graciously pleased to give effect to the above suggestions, it will carry the entire public, both Indian and European, with it. But if unfortunately the Government passes it into law, it will create a feeling of profound sorrow and alarm throughout the length and breadth of the country, as it will result in dealing an irreparable blow at the liberty of speech and writing hitherto enjoyed by the people, both in the interests of British rule and the Indian public.

With reference to section 153A, my Committee venture to submit that as feelings and sentiments cannot be proved, they are at a loss to understand how a man can be punished for merely promoting feelings of hatred or enmity between classes. He should, of course, be punished if he were to bring about a riot or disturbance; but sec-

tion 153 of the Penal Code is quite enough for the purpose. Again, if feelings of hatred or enmity are sought to be promoted by the use of libellous language, the defamation section or the Penal Code will protect the class libelled. There is thus no necessity for section 153A, specially, as the mere stirring-up of class hatred can never be an offence, neither can it be proved. The section will, however, not only prove an engine of oppression in the hands of unscrupulous men, but may seriously compromise the position of the Government. For, the section is included in section 196 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, so that offences under it will be prosecuted under the authority or with the sanction of the Government. The Government will thus have to identify itself with the prosecuting party, and thus lose its character for strict neutrality with the class to which the accused belongs. It is quite true that it is a safe-guard that no prosecution under the section will take place without the permission of the Government, but how could the Government refuse sanction, without giving rise to adverse criticism, if the leading members of a class were to appeal to it for taking action against a person who, in their opinion, had sought to promote feelings of hatred or enmity? And if the section were to remain a dead letter, my Committee fail to see why it should be created at all.

The amendments in section 505, if given effect to, will place the conductors of Newspapers in a dangerous position, for it will not be possible for them to avoid publishing now and then alarming statements, rumours, or reports, which may turn out to be false, and which, they will not be able to prove, were published in good faith. There is some force in the contention that it is difficult for the Government to prove that the accused knew that what he had published was false, and thus secure conviction under the section. But this objection can be met by accepting the suggestion of the Calcutta Bar, namely, by inserting the word "false" before "statement" in the existing section, and having reason to believe it to be false, in the place of "which he knows to be false." The section will then stand thus: "Whoever circulates or publishes any false statement, rumour or report, having reason to believe it to be false, with intent &c." No other change, in the opinion of my Committee, is needed in the section. My Committee agree with the Calcutta Bar that "the time has not come for making the telling of the truth penal in this country."

DURING the month of December last, 14,340 522 lbs. of cotton, valued at Rs. 239,447, were shipped from Bombay.

MISS FLORENCE EVA MORGAN, one of the plague nurses in the General Plague hospital at Sungam, died of the disease on Monday morning.

The Trigonometrical Survey of India Department has completed their inspection of the hills adjoining Assam; but it is not yet known what conclusion they have come to, regarding the subsidence of the hills. The public await their report with interest.

The part of the Punjab, where plague has secured a hold is the most prosperous and densely peopled in the Province. The Doaba, as it is called, is the granary of Upper India, and a brisk trade in grain, coarse sugar, and country cloth is carried on in the villages and little towns with which the district is thickly studded. But off the Doaba from the Punjab and what remains, excepting some green tracts here and there, is a barren waste.—*Tribune*.

The Afidis says the Pioneer, a more intelligent enemy than the Biluchi, "From the interesting letter and sketch from our correspondent in Mekran, it is tolerably clear that if Biluch, Khan, and his followers had pursued the same tactics as the Afidis, have consistently followed, waiting until our troops were well involved in the defile through which they had to pass, and then pressing on their flanks and rear, Colonel Mayne would not have had so easy a task. As it was, the enemy stood fast at the entrance of the pass, and were easily outmanoeuvred and beaten."

The annual relief of the Chitral garrison will probably be completed by the third week in May. The usual arrangements will be made for laying in supplies, through tribal agency, along the road through Dir, and special precautions will be taken to guard against attack by the tribes west of the Panjkora. The Malakand flying column will remain at full strength until the relief has been carried out. The Buffs will then return to India, and the Malakand-Swat garrison will be reduced to normal strength. As the Buner bogey has been laid there will no doubt be less anxiety felt in future regarding the safety of the Chitral road, but the Government of India will never be quite at their ease on this score after the revelation of the fighting power of the Manuuds.—*Pioneer*.

A Resolution appears in the "Gazette of India" raising the pay, and revising the method of recruitment for Chemical Examiners to Government. It takes effect from 21st December last, and applies to the Chemical Examiners of all local Governments except the North-West Provinces and Oudh. The pay which now ranges from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,250 monthly, is to begin at Rs. 800 and rise by annual increments of fifty rupees to Rs. 1,400, in addition to presidency house allowance. The service is to be recruited by volunteers from the junior ranks of the Indian Medical Service who will pass through a period of preliminary training lasting about twelve months in the laboratory of the Chemical Examiner in Calcutta, and during this period receive pay ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 650 monthly, according to their standing. The change has been necessitated by the great increase in work and responsibility put upon Chemical Examiners by the operation of the Merchandise Marks and Petroleum Acts, which have added to their almost exclusively medicolegal duties the conducting of far more recondite investigations requiring a high degree of technical skill.

HOW ACCIDENTS HAPPEN.

THE verdict of the Jury, in the case of Gunner Piper, who was charged before Mr. Justice Fulton with the murder of a native by shooting him with his rifle, is most surprising. There was distinct evidence for the prosecution to show that the accused and a fellow-soldier descended into a well to have a drink of water after having been out shooting; that the deceased and two other natives took the soldiers to task for having polluted the water, and that an altercation ensued in the course of which the accused shot the unfortunate man who died instantaneously. The two gallant soldiers then made off for the Artillery camp, pursued by the natives who, were however, not allowed to enter the camp. Two days after the occurrence one of the witnesses for the prosecution, who had a large bruise on his person caused by having been "beaten with the barrel" of the gun after the deceased was shot, was taken to the camp, and prisoner. There he confessed he had fired at a man. There was no evidence worth the name on behalf of the defence to contradict these facts, and the only witness who spoke to the occurrence was the soldier Clark, who had accompanied the accused in the shooting excursion and was discharged at the preliminary enquiry. He related an obviously ridiculous story to the effect that he and his comrade were overpowered by the natives, that he was thrown upon his back, that a native sat upon him, and that the gun went off accidentally in the scuffle which took place. As observed by Mr. Lang, who conducted the prosecution, this story of Clark was improbable on the face of it, and the evidence proved that the prisoner fired deliberately. But, as it always happens when a European is tried for such serious offences by a jury consisting mainly of his own countrymen, the jury in this case could not even bring themselves to find the accused guilty of the minor charge of culpable homicide or grievous hurt. What is still more remarkable is that the Anglo-Indian papers have not a word to say regarding this glaring instance of miscarriage of justice. Whenever a European murders a native it is always due to some wonderful accident, whereas when the reverse is the case, it is a most deliberate offence to be punished only with death, and sometimes there is even a huge conspiracy against the Government at the bottom. This is how British justice is administered in India, and in this case, be it noted, that eight of the jurors were Europeans. Another case is just reported from Poona where it is again a soldier who is said to have attempted to murder a cholera-bearer by inflicting, while drunk, a wound three inches long in his throat. We shall not be surprised to hear that the cholera-bearer had threatened violence to the soldier and that the latter acted in self-defence.—*Madras Standard*.

BUDS AND STIPULES.

At the Royal Institution Sir John Lubbock delivered a discourse on "Buds and Stipules." Sir E. Bramwell presided. He began by showing a number of diagrams to illustrate the various ways in which the buds of plants were protected from the cold. He described how in some cases protection was afforded by the old leaves, and in others by the leaf stalks, and how sometimes the bud had to protect itself as it were by means of a covering of hairs or of scales. The latter represented different parts of the plants sometimes corresponding to leaves, sometimes to stalks, sometimes to stipules, etc. Hairs in Alpine regions served to keep off excess of moisture, or in dry and desert countries to prevent too free transpiration of moisture; or they might protect the leaves from insects and keep them warm. The most frequent use of stipules was to protect the bud, though they sometimes fulfilled the function of leaves. They varied considerably in form, some being very wide, others very narrow. When the leaflets were large and broad they were broadly thus being able to protect the whole bud, whereas a narrow elongated leaf only required a narrow stipule. Discussing why the seed-leaves of plants always differed from the other leaves, the lecturer found the explanation in the fact that these leaves, being folded in the bud, had to conform to its shape. Similarly, but influenced the form of the mature leaf. For instance, the curious shape of the willow-tree's leaf was due, he believed, to the configuration of the bud, which contained the stipules, the stalks, and the leaf folded upon itself, the latter just occupying the space left by the two former. Referring to the question why one member of a species of plants should possess stipules while another did not, he thought, it was conclusive that where stipules were present the leaf stalks were narrow, while they were broad where there were no stipules. In conclusion he referred briefly to the processes attendant on the fall of the leaf in autumn.

Mr. H.C. WEST, Chief Engineer of the Madras Railway, vacates his appointment in August on attaining the age of 55. The Board is reported to have nominated Mr. Stoney for the appointment.

We understand that the Government of Bengal is in correspondence with the Government of India regarding the creation of an eighth class of Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors on Rs. 150 per month, in place of the present officiating grade on Rs. 200. The new grade will, however, have the advantage of counting service in that grade towards pension and furlough, which the officers in the officiating grade are not allowed.

THE earnings of Indian Railways in January last were about four and a-half lakhs of rupees, better than in the same month of 1897. The North-Western, whose earnings continue to be swelled by the preparations for further military operations against the Zalka Khels, alone accounts for the increase, the total earnings of the other Railways being very much the same as usual, when the defect in such lines in Western India as the Great Indian Peninsula, and Bombay Baroda, is set against the improvement which has taken place simultaneously in the receipts of the Eastern Bengal, the Oudh and Rohilkhand, and the Bengal and North-Western.

SIR J. B. EVALL, Surgeon Colonel Richardson, Messrs. T. Hignam, T. W. Holderness, Bose, and P. Macintosh, members of the Famine Commission, reached Madras on Friday. The Commission opened its sittings the next morning at the Council Chamber, Mr. W. Lefanu taking his seat as provincial member. The first witness examined was Mr. R. H. Shapley, the Collector of Amantopore. The practice of storing food-grain among the agricultural classes was, he said, dying out, owing principally to the facilities for the transport of grain and the ready market produce commanded. It was not the practice of the labouring classes to keep jewellery and ornaments on which they could fall back in times of scarcity. The few cases of emaciation witnessed among children on the works were due much more to the want of care than to the want of feeding. He deprecated the interference of the Public Works Department with the Civilian Executive in famine administration, though he admitted that the Executive Engineer might be attached to the Collector's staff as adviser.

MORIBUND PLAGUE CASES.

DR. BLANEY writes to the *Times* of India:—

Will you allow me to plead in the cause of humanity on behalf of the dying and moribund victims of the plague who are being carried away in large numbers from their houses to plague hospitals on detection by the agents of the Plague Committee? Whatever value that Committee may place on the segregation of plague-stricken persons from poisoned houses, with overflowing populations is best known to themselves. I have already had an opportunity of criticising this supposed measure for abolishing the pestilence in this city after the disease has acquired its full strength, and need not therefore return to the subject. My concern now is with the exhausted and the dying, with those upon whom death has already laid its hand, and whose recovery is hopeless. To hurry away such cases to plague hospitals can be of no possible service to the victims, while the untimely removal adds immensely to the affliction and distress, not only of the whole household, but of the whole neighbourhood. Since the increased virulence of the present epidemic commenced a month ago, numerous cases have been sent away from their houses in a hopeless and even a moribund condition, to die in the hospitals in a few hours, or even minutes after admission, and these hopeless cases are increasing day by day with the increase of the epidemic. Is it not humane and friendly to allow such cases to remain undisturbed with their friends until the final release comes? It is not a question of a caste or class, or creed, or nationality, but a question simply of humanity to let the dying die in peace. It is from this point of view I now plead for the helpless and the sore distressed. I cannot myself see the slightest danger to public health in making this concession—if that is what I must call it—towards what I know to be a widely extended public feeling. To carry segregation to the bitter end by insisting on every plague case dying in the street, or in a plague hospital, is to make use of these hospitals as morgues or mortuaries. Surely these hospitals are quite enough filled with horrors of their own without adding to them by piling up dead bodies on the premises, and by exhibiting the moribund and the dying in large numbers in the hospital to the already distressed patients in the wards. And surely these hospitals were never intended to be exhibitions of special terror, as they cannot now fail to be when they are being filled daily and hourly with dying persons. I see removals of this kind every day, and the more I see of the system the more I deplore it. I believe the persons who deplore it even more than I do, are the medical men who find themselves presented with practically dead bodies.

May I not therefore plead for the immediate cessation of a system of dealing with plague which is destitute of common sense, and of all feelings of humanity?

THE Hon. Mr. Pheozeshah Merjani, Mehta, C. I. E., arrived in Bombay on Saturday morning from England.

PROFESSOR MULLER and Mr. Cama have been declared duly elected members of the Corporation by the Fellows of the Bombay University.

THERE were 119 attacks and 167 deaths in Bombay on Monday from plague. The total mortality from all causes was 280, as against 239 last year and 89 the year before.

THERE is a great demand for leave in the Civil Service this year, owing to leave having been stopped last year on account of the famine. Nothing less than a medical certificate or very urgent private affairs will work the oracle.

MR. A. P. GWYNNE, one of the last batch of Indian Civilian, died at Rangoon on Friday from pneumonia after a few days' illness.

AT Balarampur last week, Sir A. MacDonnell laid the foundation stone of an Orphanage, which the Raja wishes to build to commemorate His Honour's visit to Balarampur, and which is to be called the MacDonnell Orphanage. The Raja read an address in which he said he would be glad to look after the future of the poor inmates, who had been left homeless, and orphans after the late famine.

As compared with the deliveries of piece goods and yarns last November, from the Dock-sheds and Ware-houses in Bombay, the decline in January is equal to very nearly 28 per cent, and although, as a rule, trade is less brisk in January than in November—which is often the Dewak month—the falling off now shown is far in excess of what it was for the corresponding month in either 1895-96 or 1894-95. The falling off last month on the November figures amounts to 7240 packages, and this compares with a reduction of 2310 packages between the two months of November, 1895, and January, 1896.

As some doubt seems to exist regarding the rifles and ammunition lost by the Khyber Rifles when the Afidis made their raid upon Al Masjid and Landi Kotah, the "Pioneer" states that the corps were armed with Government Sniders. From the nature of some of the wounds received by British soldiers in action it is only too certain that these rifles were used with great effect by the tribesmen, who had abundant ammunition.

THE total list of casualties on the frontier from the 10th June to the 7th February is:—British officers, 43 killed and 90 wounded; British non-commissioned officers and men, 120 killed and 415 wounded; native officers, 6 killed and 36 wounded; native non-commissioned officers and men, 315 killed and 871 wounded; total 481 killed and 1,442 wounded. Sixteen British soldiers and five natives are reported missing. No return is given of casualties among followers.

DRIVERS Duke, Brown and Combes, and Gunner Barrett of the 53rd Field Battery, R.A., and Private C. Grant, of the Highland Light Infantry, are charged at Karachi with causing grievous hurt to Police Constable Kalsingh, while the latter was on his rounds in Ramnagar Garrikhata. The accused, it is alleged, went to a house and insisted on opening a bottle of brandy and drinking at there, but a woman strongly objected to their doing so. The soldiers then began creating a disturbance, when Kalsingh went to the scene to disperse them, but they assaulted him so severely that he was found lying in an unconscious state, and had to be removed to the Civil Hospital for treatment. One of his assailants, it is alleged, smashed a bottle on his head.—M. P.

RESULTS OF THE ECLIPSE.

INTERVIEW AT THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

"It is a little early to discuss the results of the observations," says Mr. W. H. Wesley, F.R.A.S., Assistant Secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society. "At present we have no details sufficient to enable us to arrive at any definite idea of what has been done, and there is very little to be said about it. The only point that occurs to me to call for any comment is the discrepancy between Sir Norman Lockyer's message on his observation of the corona and that which appears to have been received from Professor Turner."

"You mean with regard to the 'streamers'?"

"Yes, you see Professor Turner says, 'the corona extended one radius of the moon in the direction of the sun's axis both north and south, and three radii in the equatorial direction.' Now, Sir Norman Lockyer's message says distinctly that there was no equatorial extension of the luminosity, and that the largest streamer was a polar one and had a length equal to four apparent diameters of the moon."

"Four diameters! What would that be in miles?"

"Well, the apparent diameter of the moon during the eclipse would practically be that of the sun, 850,000 miles, so that four diameters would be 3,400,000 miles. He does not say whether it is north or south polar, but a streamer of such a length has never been known at either pole, though the equatorial extension has been much greater than that. One account, you see, says that there was an enormous streamer either north or south and no equatorial extension, the other says that there was an extension of one radius both north and south and three radii, or 2,550,000 miles equatorially."

"Probably some error in transmission. What are these streamers supposed to be, Mr. Wesley?"

"They appear to be in some way connected with sun-spot development. They alter their form with the maximum and minimum sun-spot period of eleven years. At the maximum of sun-spots," continued Mr. Wesley, taking a pencil and paper and scribbling the disc of the sun with a ragged corona pretty evenly distributed all around it. "This is the form of the corona."

"And this," drawing another sun, with just a little fringe of luminosity at the north and south poles, and great wings of light millions of miles long stretching away right and left—"this represents the minimum period of sun-spots."

"But I thought this eleven years cycle idea had been rather exploded."

"No, it has not been exploded, though it is found that the sun-spot period is not so reliable as it was supposed to be."

Mr. Wesley brings forward a number of enlarged photographs of previous eclipses that have fallen at different stages of sun-spot activity, and which plainly indicate some connection between the phenomena of spots and streamers.

"And whereabouts are we now in this eleven years' cycle?"

"Well, we are very nearly midway between the maximum and minimum."

"Ah, then we can't gather from that which of these conflicting accounts is likeliest to be the correct one."

"No; but a polar streamer of four diameters is incredible. There must be something wrong."

Mr. Wesley points out in the photographs a certain symmetrical balance in the coronal form. The poles lengthen or shorten their luminosity in some approach to correspondence with each other, and the equatorial wings do the same, but the symmetry is not always true to the sun's polar axis. The poles are not always in the centre of the coronal minimum. The symmetry of the display hangs a little lop-sided from the pole.

"May it not have some relation to the solar magnetic pole?"

"Ah! that has been suggested and is thought very probably, that we have not yet found out the magnetic pole of the sun."

"And what are these tremendous streamers supposed to be, Mr. Wesley? What is the theory on the matter? Are they plays of electricity?"

"It is thought that they may be electrically luminous particles of matter. They cannot be supposed to indicate the existence of a solar atmosphere, because gaseous matter, subject to the tremendous attractive power of such a mass as the sun, would condense into a solid at the sun's surface. And that there is no such solidity is proved by the fact that comets have passed close to the sun without appearing to meet with any atmospheric resistance."

"Then it seems possible that these solar streamers are something in the nature of our own aurora borealis, on a big scale?"

To this Mr. Wesley gives a cautious assent. That there is a connection between magnetic earth-currents and auroral displays seems pretty well established, and, as it has been said, there is apparently an intimate connection between the spots on the face of the sun and these sublime emanations from the sun's photosphere, and the chances are that electricity will be found to be at the bottom of these stupendous flares up. There is a great deal to be found out yet, however, and it is sincerely to be hoped that our scientific men who have gone all the way out to India to witness a phenomenon lasting two minutes at the utmost are not coming to loggerheads over simple matters of fact. We have all heard the story of the two sailors who went to church together, and one of whom could not see the parson while the other could see two. That, according to present appearances, is pretty much the state of things between the astronomers, but it is to be hoped to goodness the discrepancy will soon be cleared up.

"You have been an observer of a solar eclipse have you not, Mr. Wesley?"

"No," says this gentleman, rather ruefully, "I am sorry to say I haven't. I have been out to see one."

"Oh, you were one of the unfortunates who went out to the last?"

"Yes, I went to Norway, but we were unable to see anything. And there isn't another till 1900."—Daily News.

The members of the Famine Commission who are now in Madras, will leave it on the 18th for Bellary.

It is understood that Mr. Arnold White, Barrister-at-Law, the newly-appointed Advocate-General of Madras, leaves London for Bombay on the 19th of this month.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

SOME STRANGE MONSTERS

THE word monster is usually, though quite wrongly, associated in our minds with something large, whereas it really means something marvellous; it may be from its unusual form, and may be applied to quite minute objects. The monsters which are here alluded to have been produced by the intentional interference of man with the natural course of development of an animal before it has emerged from the egg. As has so frequently been pointed out, all animals and plants are formed of one or more cells; a cell, in the language of those who study living things, is certainly rather a difficult thing to define. Roughly speaking, however, a living cell may be regarded as a mass of that jelly-like material known as protoplasm, surrounded by a wall of outer coat, and having near the centre of the mass a peculiarly constituted body known as the nucleus. Simple as this sounds, the study of the structure and functions of cells is one on which a great deal of labour has been spent, and though we know a good deal about it, there remain still many things more to learn. The bodies of all but the simplest animals and plants are built up of an innumerable number of these complex and minute cells. Now, the egg, or ovum, or seed, by which the higher forms reproduce their kind, is essentially a single cell. During the course of development this cell divides into two parts, which remain attached to one another; each of these again divides, and so the process goes on till all the cells in the body are formed, each being derived from the original single cell by division. As these repeated divisions are going on, the cells are rapidly arranging themselves in such a way as to build up the organs and tissues of the embryo. The study of the changes which take place between the formation of the ovum and the appearance of the fully developed form constitutes the science of embryology.

Now, science has been divided into two classes, observational and experimental. In the former we simply record the facts as we observe them, and reason upon these. Every science has at first to pass through this stage, and from the nature of things, some can get no further. In experimental sciences, however, we can put certain definite questions to nature, and when once the experimental stage is reached rapid advance is usually made.

The study of embryology does not seem to lend itself to experiment, but still a few questions as to what will take place under certain conditions have been put, and answers have been received. The ovum, as we have seen, divides up into numerous cells to form the embryo. The original cell then contains something which is capable of being built up into the embryo, provided that it be furnished with nutriment for the necessary increase in bulk. In a bird's egg the nutriment forms that part of the ovum which is known as the yolk. In some eggs practically no yolk is present, and all grades between exist. When plenty of yolk is present the young are set free in a highly developed state, as is the case with the chick. If very little yolk is present, the young are set free very small, and, as a rule, very different in form from the parent, or else special means exist of nourishing the embryo during growth and before birth. The latter is the case with the higher mammals. As the egg contains something, we know not what, which determines the nature of the animal it is to produce, it would be interesting to know at what stage the different divisions of the ovum are definitely set apart for the building up of certain organs. For instance, the ovum divides at first into two equal and apparently indistinguishable portions. Is one of these new cells set apart for, say, the anterior part of the body, and the other for the posterior, or are they both really similar as yet?

Here experiment can step in. Frog's eggs are for many reasons suitable for observation; they are large and are easily obtained in quantity. Professor T. H. Morgan has found that in the early stages any one of the divisions or segments of the ovum can be made to produce an apparently complete larva, though of small size, but later on the removal of any group of cells causes the production of an imperfect individual. Professor Born has made some very peculiar experiments. He finds that if the tadpole larva, at a very young stage, be cut in two, each part will go on developing for some time. For instance, a tail will continue to build up different parts, such as the fins, long after it is severed from the body. The same is the case with the head. Sooner or later, however, they die of starvation. Professor Born then tried grafting one part of one larva on to another, and so produced two-headed and two-tailed tadpoles. He also grafted them together back to back, and in various other ways. In one case he united the front two-thirds of one larva to the posterior two-thirds of another, and was able to rear it successfully, so that he now has a frog with an abnormally long body. The way in which the different parts adjust themselves so as to fit perfectly is very wonderful, and as Professor Born is still at work we may hear some more of the strange monsters which he is sending forth.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL Sir Bindon Blood, K. C.B., left Calcutta on Saturday evening and proceeded to Meerut.

THE *Hindu's* Cuddalore correspondent writes that Mr. A. R. Bannerjee won the golden opinions of the people during the short time he stayed in their midst as Assistant Collector.

THE following is the Madras Government's season telegram to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, Calcutta, for the week ending 5th February:

Rainfall during week nil except a few light scattered showers in Tanjore. Water-supply for irrigation generally insufficient in rain-fed areas except Malabar and parts Northern Circars and Deccan. Agricultural operations continue but retarded by want of rain. Rain now improbable for some weeks. Crops in rain-fed areas except extreme north, and parts Deccan suffer from want of rain; harvest continues, but generally middling but poor in parts. Pasture generally sufficient but failing in parts Deccan and Carnatic; fodder generally available but growing dear. Condition of cattle normal, prices very high generally, steady or slightly easier except in Bellary, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. Most staple grains dearer than or touching scarcity rates in Gangan, Godavari, Kistna, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Nellore, North Arcot and Salem. No improvement in prospects. Nellore test-work figures incomplete.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Fund, held at the office of the Board of Revenue, on 9th February, the following business was transacted: It was reported that the number of orphans who will have to be supported by the Fund, excluding those for whom provision has already been made, is 106; and that for the maintenance of these, until they are able to earn their own living, a total sum of rather over Rs. 25,000 will be required. It was resolved that a lump sum of Rs. 25,000 be transferred to the Local Government for the maintenance of the orphans.

The Committee sanctioned the payment of a bonus of Rs. 354, equal to two months' pay to the clerks of the Famine Fund office, in consideration of their heavy duties and good work.

It was resolved that the balance in hand, after payment of outstanding charges, be refunded to the Central Committee. The Honorary Secretary anticipated that this would amount to about Rs. 85,000.

The following resolutions were then passed:—(a) The Committee desire to place on record an expression of their high appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by the Secretary, Mr. E. N. Baker, in connection with the administration of the Famine Fund, entrusted to the Committee. (b) Resolved that a copy of the above resolution and of the Chairman's letter to Government recording his opinion of Mr. Baker's services be attached to the letter forwarding the report to the Chairman of the Central Committee.

It was then resolved that the Committee thank the Chairman, Mr. W. H. Grimley, for his services.

The duties of the Committee being now at an end, with the termination of the famine in Bengal, it was resolved that the Committee do now dissolve.

IN LOVE WITH A PHOTOGRAPH.

SOCIETY in Richmond, Virginia, is pleasantly excited over a rumour that Miss Eleanor Bergen Moran has won the hand of Prince Fabien Colonna. There has been no formal announcement of the engagement; but letters have passed, and the Prince has requested permission to dedicate one of his poems to the fair Virginian. The most romantic part of the story is that the Prince has never seen Miss Moran. Through mutual friends the Prince saw a picture of the lady, and fell in love with it. From this a correspondence commenced, and the family admit that an understanding exists between the young people.

There is a very distant family connection between Prince Fabien Colonna and Miss Moran. Prince Fabien's grandmother was cousin to Napoleon Bonaparte, and the niece of Madame Bonaparte of Baltimore married Miss Moran's first cousin.

THE LATEST STORY ABOUT ANDREE'S BALLOON.

STOCKHOLM, January 14.—The news regarding the alleged appearance of a balloon—supposed to be that of Herr Andree—in British Columbia, came to the Government from the Consul in San Francisco, M. Lund. Hearing from an engineer, named Newson, that a balloon had been seen, the Consul entered into communication with Mr. Hobson, Director of the Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company, Quesnella Forks, British Columbia, and begged him to institute inquiries. That gentleman then obtained the following particulars:—About three o'clock in the morning on some day between the 4th and 7th of August, a Mrs. Sullivan and her daughter, aged 18, saw in the sky a grey object, which was beginning to sink towards the earth. As it fell, the object became more perceptible, and finally turned out to be a balloon with a car attached. After some time, the balloon began oscillating, and moved in the direction of the eastern arm of Lake Quessnell, at the same time ascending to some extent. It afterwards rose rapidly, and disappeared in an easterly direction. The two women, Mr. Hobson says, are intelligent persons, and he sees no reason to doubt their statement.

AT Bombay there were 193 new cases, and 199 deaths from plague on Saturday.

THE rainfall during the 24 hours ending on Friday morning was even more extensive and heavy than during the previous 24 hours. All parts of the Indian regions seem to have received rain, except Burma and Bengal. Proper and the south of the peninsula, while in Upper India the rainfall amounts were very heavy. Behar reports general showers, the heaviest being nearly 1 inch at Gaya, while the N.-W. Provinces, the Punjab, and the Central Provinces have received universal rain. The average for the whole exceeding one inch, with a maximum of over three inches at Meerut, of over five inches at Umballa, and of nearly three inches at Seoni; while Bombay, Gujarat, Sind, Rajputana, all report fair showers. The whole of the north of Madras has received over one inch of rain, the heaviest fall reported being one and three quarters of an inch at Masulipatam.

THE system of Kendrapara canals will be closed for annual repairs for about a month, commencing from the 20th proximo. The steamer, plying between Chandbali and Cuttack, will then have to pass through the more circuitous route, via the Taldanda canal and the creeks.

THE *Pioneer* says that in all probability a series of searching questions will be put in Parliament regarding the Shabkarad affair and the abandonment of the Khyber. If independent members insist on the production of all telegrams, despatches, &c., relating to the miserable business, Her Majesty's Government can scarcely refuse to produce them. They will disclose a policy of such pitiable weakness that opinion at home is likely to be greatly excited on the subject.

SOME particulars about the proposed Russian railway from Merv to the Afghan frontier, are published. It will be begun this month. Its length will be about 200 miles, and the cost is set down at nine million roubles. The line will not only connect the Afghan frontier with the Caspian Sea, but also with the whole of the network of railways which Russia is building for the purpose of connecting all parts of the Empire.

INDIAN NEWS.

THE Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,15,00,000 for military works during 1898-99.

It is probable that the Burma-China Boundary Commission will complete its work by the end of March next.

THE Betia-Bagaha Extension of the T. S. R. has at last been given up for the present owing to financial difficulties.

SOME sensation has been caused at Agra by the official announcement that the historical Ram Bagh building is for sale.

THE cotton shipped from Bombay to external and foreign Indian ports during December aggregated 18,291 khandies, and its value was Rs. 25,91,447.

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL James Cleg-horn, M.D., C.S.I. Director General, Indian Medical Service and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, shortly proceeds home on long leave.

SEVERAL thefts are reported to have taken place in the Plague Observation Camp at Chowas though guarded by a strong police contingent. The latest was on the 5th, when a shop, within 20 yards of the police lines, was robbed of property valued at Rs. 30.

TWO new cotton ginning factories are being constructed in Burma and will soon be in full working order. One is at Wyatung, opposite Thayetmyo, and the other at Myingyan near the Police Training School. The estimated cost of each factory is about a lakh and a half of rupees.

A HAJIPORE correspondent writes to the "Behar Herald" that a Chowkidar of the village of Chowksi Kandari in the Sub-Division of Hajipore, was severely assaulted by some of the villagers, on suspicion that he threw poisonous drugs in a well. A Police investigation is going on.

HE official return up to February 6th shows that out of the reduced estimate of £ 10,000,000 to be remitted by means of Council Bills before the end of next month there remains a sum of £ 3,787,300. In other words, less than one-sixth of the financial year more than one-third of the remittances due during the year remain to be made.

THE Manager of the East Coast Railway has obtained the sanction of Government to open to passenger traffic the new ferry siding from Kovur to Godavary on the East Coast Railway. The trains will be restricted to a speed not exceeding ten miles an hour until the line becomes sufficiently consolidated to admit of the usual speed being introduced.

THE Madras Government being anxious to know the extent to which ladies are employed in Government service, the Accountant-General has called upon Heads of Departments to furnish him with a memo showing the extent to which ladies are employed in their offices, which should also specify the appointments in and the salaries on which they are employed.

THAT people are getting tired of the apparently endless appeals for funds for one object or another is evidenced by the fate that has befallen the subscription started by a few busybodies at Lahore to erect a statue of the Queen-Emress in the Punjab. Sixty thousand rupees are required, but only Rs. 20,000 have been contributed in six months, and it will be surprising if there is any considerable increase of this sum during the two months that it has been decided to keep the fund open, unless resort be had to a form of extortion. The Lahore paper was responsible for inaugurating this ill-timed movement. Let its proprietors come to the rescue to save it from undignified collapse.—*Morning Post*.

A MOST determined suicide is reported of the murderer of Hussein Wulud Sultan, lying under sentence of death in Dharwar jail. The prisoner appealed for a reprieve to the Bombay Government, but it was rejected. Next he petitioned the Viceroy, with no better result. The decision being made known to him, the condemned took advantage of the darkness in his cell at night, and extracted the cords from his blanket, twisting them into an improvised rope half an inch thick, and about six feet in length. He fastened one end to one of the bars over the door of his cell, and adjusted the noose round his neck, and hanged himself. Next morning the body was found suspended against the door.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the "Punjab Times" from Gujrat: The cutting of a tongue at Gujratwala was a great blessing to the poor people. A large sum of money was raised on the same day from all bazars, say more than a thousand rupees in cash, and the women raised a hillock of flour and rice. For five consecutive days simple and sumptuous food was given to the poor and the devotees of the goddess. "Havan" was performed for five days and nights. The concourse of men, women and children was unprecedented in this district, who paid the profoundest reverence to the goddess. At last, on the 4th day when the devotees grew tired, six goddesses sprang up from the town from different families but the 7th from the realm yet unknown. When the goddess appeared in the abode where their worshipper was lying half dead, there was such a rush of the people that one young man was crushed to death. The whole population of the town, which exceeds 26 thousand, followed the goddesses by magnetic force. The chief devotee of the goddess was Rai Ram Dass who sacrificed both his time and money for their sake. On the 4th instant the goddesses were paraded with great pomp and grandeur in a royal palanquin and at night there was great illumination throughout the town.

UNDER instructions from the Government of India, the Agent, Southern Mahratta Railway, has submitted his report on the borings, etc., of the Mulloor Bridge, which was the scene of a disastrous accident last September. The result of the test clearly showed that the abutment pier which failed, instead of being founded on wells, was founded on a block of concrete about five feet deep, and only 3½ feet below the bed of the river.

THE Board of Trade have received through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a telegram, dated 8th January, from the Governor of Malta:—"Passengers from Bombay or Kurrachee shall be landed in one of the quarantine establishments, where they will be subject to strict medical inspection until their clothing and all other articles of personal use likely to retain infection shall have been thoroughly disinfected. Passengers from Bombay, Kurrachee, Beyrouth, Tripoli, Tunis, may be medically visited at home during one fortnight after date of arrival."

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

THE Third Brigade marched on Friday into General Hammond's old camp at Swaikot.

A SEPOY of the 2-4 Gurkha Rifles is reported missing from Landi Kotai. He went a short way from the camp and has not been heard of since, though all search has been made. General Symonds left Jamrud for Ali Masjid on inspection duty on Saturday.

THE Headquarters of the 2nd Division shifted to Mamani from Peshawar on Friday. The General inspected the new road from the Mamani post towards Barkai and reconnoitred along its proposed alignment, in the direction of Barkai.

PREPARATIONS for the advance against the Zakka Khels are being actively pushed forward. The headquarters of the Second Division, Tirah Expeditionary Force, moved to Mamani from Peshawar on Thursday last.

COLONEL MAYNE's force, which moved on to Chabuk, has blown up the fort there. Mehrah Khan and his brothers have, it is believed, fled into Persian territory, and Colonel Mayne is returning to Turbat. It would appear from this information that further difficulty in Mekran is not likely to occur.

ONE hundred men of the 1st Gurkha Rifles are under readiness for the front, to form part of the proposed corps of scouts. Government have now given orders for the supply of 200 more Lee-Metford rifles, with 100 rounds per rifle, of the Dum-Dum pattern bullet, as ammunition for issue to the scouts of the 2nd and 3rd Gurkhas with the force, and also have increased the number for issue to the 5th Gurkhas from 500 to 650 rifles.

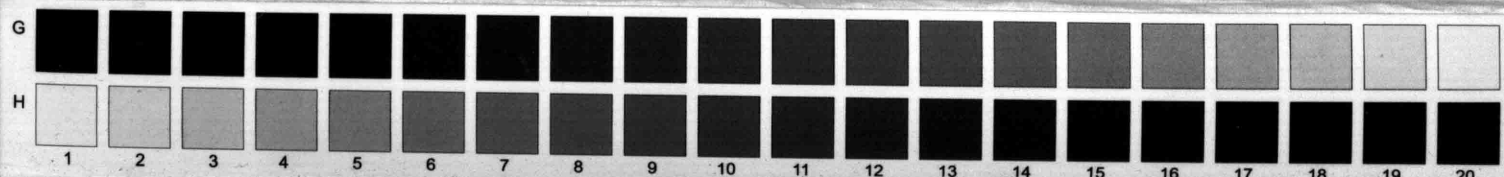
THE two Afridi maliks who have most to be counted with in any settlement with the Zakka Khel, are Khwas Khan and Wali Mahomed. They were young men when the Khyber arrangement was made in 1881-82, but they had an important following, and took good care to get a large share of the allowances granted for keeping open the Pass. For the last sixteen years they must have pocketed considerable sums of money, and it was probably against their advice that the raid upon the Khyber was made last autumn. Indeed, we believe, they were in Peshawar when the first rumours got abroad that the Afridis meant mischief, and it might have been thought that with proper handling they could have been kept from committing themselves. But, apparently, when they saw the weak and flabby policy which Sir Richard Udny was pursuing, they cast in their lot with their fellow-tribesmen, and for months past they have been actively hostile. They have not escaped scot-free, as some of their villages in the Pass itself have been destroyed, and a number of their retainers must have been killed in the fighting. Now they seem to have come to the conclusion that the game of guerilla warfare is no longer worth playing, and they are making half-hearted overtures to Sir William Lockhart.—*Pioneer*.

A PESHAWAR telegram dated the 12th says:—The Second Division is improving communications in the Bara Valley, and the road-making beyond Mamani must impress the tribesmen. It is evident that new features will be introduced if active operations become again necessary, as Lucas Scouts have been raised to a corps six hundred strong, and are now being daily instructed in the use of the Lee-Metford rifle. This movement points to a vigorous counter-guerilla warfare of the kind which the recent campaign showed that the tribesmen would never face. The Gurkhas have taken rapidly to the new weapon.

THE creation of a Police district is notified, embracing all the lands occupied by the Ahmedabad Prantji Railway, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, the Rajpala State Railway, the Rajpootana-Malwa Railway, system (including the Holkar State Railway, the Sindhia-Neemuch State Railway, the Neemuch-Nussirabad State Railway, the Rajpootana State Railway, the Western Rajpootana State Railway, the Palanpore-Deesa Railway, the Godhra-Rutlam-Nagda Railway, the Nagda-Ujjain Railway and the Rewari-Ferozepore State Railway, but excluding the Cawnpore-Achnera State Railway), and the Tapti Valley Railway, of a Police force for service therein.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Behar School of Engineering held on Tuesday in the Commissioner's Office, Mr. Bourdillon, C. S. I., presiding, it was resolved:—(1) That it is desirable to aim at raising the school to a standard which will qualify its passed students to be Overseers; (2) that the present teaching staff of the school be strengthened and improved; (3) that Government be asked to appoint a qualified Engineer as Principal, and if this cannot be done, the school be placed under the charge of one of the Engineers here on an allowance granted to him; (4) that students of the school passing the final examination of the school, who are now entitled to Sub-Overseer's certificate under the Government rules, be also eligible for Overseerships in this Division, on their obtaining a certificate signed by the Superintendent Engineer, the Inspector of Local Works, the Principal of the Patna College, and the Commissioner of the Division; (5) that a Sub-Committee be asked to draw up a scheme for raising the school to the Overseer standard, and that the next meeting of the Committee be held on the 23rd instant.

A RESOLUTION has just been issued by the Bombay Government stating that Government are prepared to release a certain class of prisoners from the jails in the Presidency under certain conditions detailed in the resolution. The prisoners in question are these whom, from symptoms of ill-health, it is deemed advisable to liberate in order that their chances of recovery be increased. The medical officer in charge of the jail is directed to certify his opinion regarding any prisoner whom he may consider comes within the meaning of the first three clauses of the resolution, that certificate being sent in the Mofussil to the District Magistrate concerned, and in Bombay to the Commissioner of Police. District Magistrates are authorised to release prisoners on their own initiative while in Bombay the Police Commissioner is required to report the case for orders of Government. This privilege is only to be extended to such prisoners who have less than six months to serve, and in each case the prisoner is only to be released on an undertaking to conform to the conditions imposed on him and on his friends executing a bond to produce him in case of misconduct.



Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta